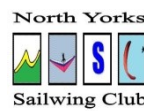


Northern Challenge Series



2023



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1. AIM:

- a) To provide a series of season long challenges with both a **Competitive** and a **Pilot Development** element.
- b) To provide a flexible approach in terms of pilot availability, weather and task type.
- c) To bring an increased focus, skill set and enjoyment to a day's flying.

2. Eligibility.

Any full flying member of the BHPA can enter the NCS main and Hike n Fly series.

There is no entry fee.

(Note: Most tasks can be attempted by CP and above rated pilots. Any XC type task requires a minimum P rating).

3. The challenges (tasks) will run between 1st February and 31st October incl. (subject to change)

- a) There will be 14 tasks in the (main) series.
- b) There will be five (subsidiary) hike and fly tasks.

The **main** and the **subsidiary** series will be run and scored separately.

4a. Tasks (main): (also offered as pilot development as well as scored competition)

- a) Comprise different flight types from (GRID, FAI, Flat triangle, O&R, Flight to a goal, cat's cradle).
- b) Be spread geographically/wind window- wise across the club regions as far as is practical
- c) Be as inclusive as possible in terms of glider and/or pilot experience level/rating
- d) They will be standing tasks between the dates above and can have multiple attempts between the set dates including on the same day. BUT ... you should aim to upload only your day best or a max of three per task across the full time period. Only your best attempt/points will appear and count towards the final total. Please resist the temptation to overload the system – you may break it!
- e) Only up to the best 8 (main) task results will score. This allows for dropping of up to six tasks - that could be choosing not to fly a task, dropping worst scores or a 'members only' restriction.
- f) All tasks will have roughly equal weighting in terms of scoring, based around task completion and time factors.

g) The flying window is to be between 0800hr and 2000hr for the main 14 tasks. The late close is to allow for evening/after-work attempts. For the Hike and Fly tasks the window will be between 0700 hrs and 21.00 hrs (or lighting up/sunrise time) whichever is the earlier. It also includes additional safety rules which can be found in the Task Guidance Notes.

h) CLUB SITE RULES over-ride every other consideration. For example, Stags Fell is 'members only' therefore you must be a DHPC member to attempt this task. Any breach of site rules will DSQ you from ALL NCT tasks and your flights will be removed.

i) A set of short briefing notes will accompany the 14 main tasks to explain the rationale behind them. It is important to read them ... especially if undertaking the H&F tasks.

4b. Tasks (subsidiary): These will be longer and of a Hike and Fly nature.

a) There will be five tasks. The **best three scores** to count towards final total. Multiple attempts allowed.

b) These are

i) The Lakes three Summits	(54k)
ii) The Dales Three Peaks	(33k)
iii) X – Central	(50k)
iv) Howgills/Western Dales	(45k)
v) The Bob Graham round	(67k)
vi) The X Dales	(supplementary each year)

The actual distance, if hiking is taken into consideration may be further than the distances above indicates.

c) Separate rules pertaining to the H&F tasks (see Guidance Notes)

5. Competition Admin: The tasks will be hosted on XCMAP. This will provide:

a) A map of the task showing cylinders (most are 400m radius; a few are different, especially starts and goals), task ID and other relevant detail including order they are to be taken in.

b) Easy download of the turnpoints as .gpx and .wpt and into various apps (eg xctsk for xctrack, xcsoar, flyskyhy).

c) Easy upload by pilots of their tracklog.

d) Online scoring showing points gained and current position by task and overall.

e) A current leaderboard showing all tasks and pilot scores.

f) Glider EN rating to be displayed (new – see awards section).

g) Entrants need to ensure their recording instrument is set to show their name. This is important for uploading as it will be the name that is read and shows against the submitted tracklog. There is no registration/password required.

h) Myself (with CF) will administer the whole event, this places no onus on any club to do any work beyond supporting, encouraging and promoting.

6. Competition Final Placings and trophies/awards:

a) The final total (**MAIN**) will be comprised of eight (or up to) task scores giving final placings for the main task set. To be clear – best 8/14 tasks determine final placings.

b) The Hike 'n Fly tasks (**SUBSIDIARY**) will be ranked and scored separately. The route and all upload/downloads will still be via XCMAP. The total across the best three tasks will determine the final total. To be clear – best 3 tasks determine final placings.

c) Winners trophies will be awarded for the MAIN, Hike n FLY. All trophies to be awarded as determined (date and venue) by the winning pilot's clubs.

d) An award will (also) be made for the highest placed pilot flying a glider up to/including EN C rating.

e) The trophy sponsor is **Ozone paragliders** – with grateful thanks.

f) Note that the Cumbria Cup has now been removed

7. Other important rules:

a) All clubs sites rules takes precedence over the tasks. In other words any site closed periods, members only, numbers limits, NO GO areas, airspace etc., **MUST be adhered to. Any flight in breach of these rules will be disqualified!**

b) Tracklogs should be uploaded as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after being flown.

c) ALL pilots must take responsible decisions about weather/flying conditions (**see disclaimer**). CP rated pilots will be able to attempt most tasks that stay close or near to the home task site. Any that involve an XC element requires them to be 'mentored' by a club coach which means suitably briefed. This can't be easily checked on ... so regard it as sound advice.

9. Other:

Information displays.

- i) The **current year page** displays all tasks (and their links) and the current, in play, league table. It will only accept flight entries within the OPEN window. The awards are drawn from this league table.
- ii) The **task pages results** tab displays all historical attempts/scores since that task was first set up. Its purpose is to provide both a long term record for that task and a reference point for ALL attempts.

XCMAP LINK <http://www.xcmap.net>

With thanks to Chris Foster for his help and continuing development of the site.

Task guidance Notes are available via links to add a little more of the thinking behind the tasks and any relevant safety notes.

10. Safety disclaimer:

Safe flying: All pilots fly under their own responsibility. It is each pilot's responsibility to take all necessary actions to maintain their own safety during the tasks, and to ensure that they do not act in any way that might endanger any other pilots. It is a condition of entry to the Northern Challenge Series for all pilots to accept without restriction, to hold the Organisers blameless, and waive all claims to compensation.

Ed Cleasby (Jan 2023)

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