

Competitions

It is widely recognised that one of the best ways of improving your flying skill is to participate in competitions. Below are the details of the most popular local and national competitions.

Local and national leagues

The Dales club participates in the popular national cross-country league for hang gliders (www.uknxcl.co.uk) and paragliders (www.xcleague.com). Registration is free for the hang glider league and for the Dales aspect of the paragliding league in which any distance of over 5km flown from a Dales site counts. The national aspect of the paragliding league requires a modest registration fee which contributes to the annual prizes and running costs. Unique and much coveted Dales XC mugs are awarded each year for cumulative distances of 50km and upwards.

Local competitions and challenges

Most years a fun event on Baildon Moor called the Baildon Sod is undertaken. It takes the form of a gliding task, in which each competitor attempts to fly as far as he/she can in a straight line or dog leg, to perform a stand-up landing within two glider spans of a predetermined line out from the hill. The coveted prize 'The Baildon Sod' symbolises a turf cut from beneath the boot of the winner at the winning touch-down. Conditions should be nil wind or very light for the best fun to be had. Keep an eye on the website for details.

The club has two longstanding challenges that pilots are encouraged to have a go at, these are the Dodd Grid and the Three Peaks challenges and are detailed on the website at www.dhpc.org.uk/competitions.

The Northern Challenge Trophy (NCT) is an informal paragliding competition based on pre-defined tasks covering all the local clubs. Unlike most other competitions it does not have fixed dates and pilots can choose when and what tasks to undertake in order to not be hindered by the weather. Details at www.xcmap.net.

Finally, the Cumbria Soaring Club, one of our neighbouring clubs, organises the very well regarded and attended Lakes Charity Classic (LCC) competition each year. See www.cumbriasoaringclub.co.uk for more information.

National competitions

On a national level the British Paragliding Cup, which usually holds a round near the Dales each year, is where you can sharpen your XC skills in more formal but friendly tasks, pitching individual pilots against each other. There is usually a group from the Dales representing the club at each round. Check out www.bpcup.co.uk.

The British Championships represent the top national-level paragliding competition, and although it has largely given up on the weather in UK, is always represented by Dales' pilots. See www.pgcomps.org.uk for more information.

In hang gliding terms a round of the British Open Series (BOS) is normally held each year in the Dales and details can be found at www.bos.bhgcomps.uk.

Awards

The club presents a number of awards, normally at the farmers' dinner or a club night in the spring. Members are invited to submit nominations for 'Cock of the Dales' and the 'Fairbrother Trophy'.

Title	Criteria
HG XC Shield	1 st place XC league
PG XC Shield	1 st place XC league
	2 nd place XC league
	3 rd place XC league
Founders Trophy HG	Longest XC from the Dales
Founders Trophy PG	Longest XC from the Dales
Baildon Sod PG	Fun Glide Comp
Baildon Sod HG	Fun Glide Comp
Northern PG Trophy	Best total distance in first* year of XC
Active Edge PG Cup	Best first* XC
Cock of The Dales	Most enthusiastic pilot
Cockcroft Cup	Most improved pilot
Fairbrother Trophy	Pilot's pilot
Mark Sellen Trophy	Services to the club
Northern Paragliding XC cup	Best triangle, out and return or flight to goal made in the Dales
Best Skywords article	Decided by the editor
Dales Accuracy Cup	Best spot landing

* based upon performance in this year's XC league with no entries in previous years