

## Dales 3 Peaks Challenge

A long standing Dales free flight challenge is to fly a triangle encompassing the summits of the 3 peaks of the Yorkshire Dales; Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-ghent. In recognition of the difficulty of the task, two cash prizes of £300 (one for paragliding and one for hang gliding) were established for the first pilots to complete the flight.

To date this has only been achieved once, by Dave Smart [flying a paraglider in June 2012](#), although there have been several further flights that have narrowly missed completing the task. The hang glider prize remains to be claimed.

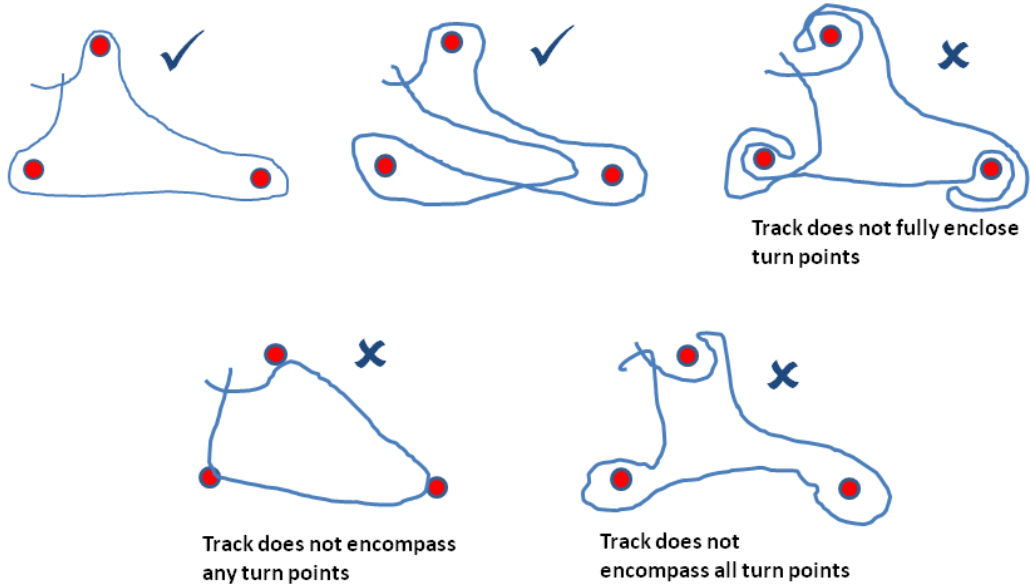
In addition, any free flyer successfully completing the challenge according to the rules below will be eligible to have their name engraved for posterity on the club 3 Peaks Trophy, especially commissioned to commemorate such flights.

While the route is a relatively short flat or FAI triangle of around 30km, depending on turn point positions, it is technically challenging, evidenced by few successful completions to date.

### The Rules...

- Open to all BHPA flying members
- All flying/site access must be in compliance with the guidance and restrictions specified in the Dales Club site guide (<http://www.dhpc.org.uk/site-guide>). If you are not a member of the Dales Club you and have any queries, please contact the club prior to flying via [contacts@dhpc.org.uk](mailto:contacts@dhpc.org.uk)
- Evidence of flights should be provided in the form of a UK National XC league compliant IGC tracklog file from an appropriate GPS-Altivario instrument
- The flight must encompass all three trig points of the 3 peaks' summits:
  - Wharfedale 54° 13.732'N, 2° 24.120'W (SD738814), 736m
  - Ingleborough 54° 9.971'N, 2° 23.874'W (SD741745) 723m
  - Pen-y-ghent 54° 9.361'N, 2° 14.924'W (SD838733) 694m
  - The 3 peaks summits form a flat triangle, but this can be extended to a FAI triangle by flying from Wharfedale to the north of the Ribbleshead viaduct (around Gayle Moor), or to the east of Ingleborough towards Horton-in-Ribblesdale
- The peaks may be tackled in any order, but the pilot must close a loop around all 3 peaks (i.e. fly outside the summits, not just tag cylinders). The task must comply with other rules for triangles as per the UK National XC league.
- The flight must be submitted to the National XC League (either HG or PG), and a copy of the IGC file sent to [contacts@dhpc.org.uk](mailto:contacts@dhpc.org.uk) Flights are to be foot-launched but can be made from any Dales site, landing can be anywhere without livestock. The pub at the Ribbleshead viaduct, or the Hill Inn close to Chapel-le-Dale are good options
- No power or aero tow allowed
- The DHPC reserves the right to publicise successful completions
- Any award will be made by the DHPC Committee on satisfaction that a pilot has completed the challenge according to the competition rules; their decision will be final
- A written account of the flight must be submitted to claim the cash prize for first hang glider completion

### Schematic examples of qualifying and non-qualifying tracks for the 3 Peaks Challenge



Yorkshire Dales Three Peaks Challenge Completions		
Type	Name	Date/Tracklog
Paraglider	Dave Smart	<a href="#">20 June 2012</a>

#### The Advice...

Local pilot Jake Herbert provides the following advice:

Ideal conditions are a light south easterly with cloudbase not necessarily that high, maybe 4-5000ft. It'll still have to be a weatherjack 4 kind of day though. Take Off is best from Whernside which has the easiest walk up or the three and best access. Park in Chapel-le-Dale at SD737773 and follow the paved private road up NW to Ellerbeck. A steep and brutal climb ensues but it'll be worth it. Fly north along the face of Whernside to bag the trig point and work up height.

Go forward onto the SE face of Ingleborough which is a huge bowl and should be booming but watch out for getting low immediately behind Ingleborough. It's steep, dark boggy and possibly turbulent. Use the limestone pavements to top up your height along the route. In fact these limestone pavements (karsts) are the key to the whole triangle. Although the rock is white it heats up very quickly in direct sun so expect big moonbeams around them.

On the way to Pen-y-ghent there's a quarry and more karsts. Once on Pen-y-ghent there's a large slope to soar facing south east covered with dark millstone grit, again this should give a good climb away. If you're low approaching Pen-y-ghent it may be possible to sneak round the low shoulder to the south

to get directly onto this face. Don't land around Pen-y-ghent though, the farmer is known to be not keen on fliers.

Once you've topped up on Pen-y-ghent there's the small matter of getting back, but at least the wind's in your favour. It might be tempting to cross directly to Whernside but it's an undulating area of bogs with few triggers and has been found to be a dead area in the past. It's probably best to back track onto Ingleborough or Simon Fell at SD759744 for the jump back to Whernside.