

SKYWORDS

February 2020

Chairman's Chat

What do you value most about the club? Is it this monthly newsletter, the club library, or perhaps the club nights? Is it the safety bulletins and the annual re-pack; or the coaching on offer to new members? Or perhaps it's the website and forum where you can find out what's going on and get answers to any flying related problem.

For most pilots the critical asset is access to good flying sites. We have plenty of those in the Dales but, unlike other clubs, we don't pay any site fees*. Yet we somehow maintain an excellent relationship with the farmers.

At Christmas the sites officers deliver a bottle of 'good cheer' to every farmer. There is often more than one farmer for each site and the bill for last year ran to £735.

Along with a Christmas Card every farmer also gets an [invitation](#) to the Farmers' Dinner: an offer to treat each farmer and his partner to a 3-course meal and drinks. The cost to the club last year was £745. For the last few years we have also arranged a free minibus for the Wensleydale farmers at a cost of £210.

This strategy has worked well for many years. Our gesture is recognised as being very generous, and the goodwill that it generates goes a very long way.

But it isn't without its risks. If all the farmers accepted the invitation then not only would it bankrupt the club, but we wouldn't be able to find a venue big enough. Equally if only a handful of farmers expressed an interest then it wouldn't be worth all the hassle. Fortunately, experience has demonstrated that, along with the committee members, acting as hosts; and prize winners, attendance hovers around the maximum number that we can fit into the function room and the cost remains under control. All members pay the full price.

Thus far we have got away with it, but if the numbers rose or fell significantly then we'd have to review our strategy. The club would save about £950 each year if we did away with the Farmers' Dinner, but it would be very difficult to judge what effect that would have on goodwill. I suspect that, at £5.60 per member, it represents excellent value for money.

Fly Safely

Martin Baxter
Chairman

*The National Trust charges £420pa for Nont Sarahs and Pule Hill. The DHPC contributes £210pa to the Pennine Soaring Club for our half share.

Reserve Repack

Well it's that time of year again... time to check that it would have worked if we'd really needed it, and breath a slight sigh of relief!

So we gathered again outside St Mary's, thinking we'd have a repeat of last year (when the caretaker had forgotten, couldn't be contacted, and we had to decamp to the small theatre in Guiseley). This year was going to be different!, we could get in - only to find the large nets outs for local cricket practice. In the end, a deal seemed to be struck and (personally) I thought it all worked out just fine in the end. David's suggestion of "wrap up warmly" was well heeded as the heating was broken!



Laying out (front), checking panels (back)

Our observer (remember we are doing the packing ourselves), Bill Morris (who lives locally and is an BHPA official for Reserve Packing), showed us the usual (and a very welcome reminder) short presentation.

The key messages being:

- **"If in doubt throw it out", and**
- **"It doesn't matter how low you are a little bit of extra drag could still save your life";**

We then moved on to the main event... following a quick demo of main elements, we split into teams, paired up (much easier with two of you), and got on with it... – just like being at school really... we helped each other and worked our way through... monitored closely by Bill & Kevin (his helper/trainee)

This now having been the 3rd time that I've repacked, I was now feeling a little more confident, but let's not forget this has to be right, as your life could depend on it (hopefully never), but certainly getting easier (need to make sure the instructions and some para-cord are part of my every day kit though).

So with some sorting through the panels, laying out the lines, squaring off, some S folds, and line '8's, then back in the pack until next year (hopefully), finishing with a bit of a natter...

I believe there is some rumour that this will be Bill's last year (but apparently he said that last year too), but in all seriousness I cannot thank Bill (and his trainee Kevin) enough for giving up their time and expertise.

And not forgetting many thanks for David for organising (sorry if missed anyone else).

Carl Maughan

It's not all about the numbers

As All Hallow's Eve has been and gone, another season from the XC league perspective has departed. The coveted Dales XC mugs and trophies will be worked out by the committee over the coming months, but it is now time to reflect upon the year, what was achieved, how well Dales pilots did, and how the club performed. Many will remember the abysmal summer we had, with scant flying opportunities in our neck of the woods, but taking a step back and looking at the wider picture, how did 2019 shape up?

It is true that whilst generally blessed with beautiful launches and stunning scenery, the north of England has far fewer flying and cross country days than the south, as highlighted by the appearance of the [northernxcleague](#). The reasons, mainly due to geography, are explained in the northern league's information section. By analysing the data from the wider UK league, Geoff Crossley, the northern league's creator, has a wealth of statistics that show that in 2019 there were approximately half the number of flying days and half the number of cross country days up north and that only 10% of the top 100 XC league flights were in the north of England or Scotland.

Clearly, if you want to do well or win the national XC league, then you need to either live down south or be prepared to travel there extensively. However, many who live up north choose to, or rather choose not to move, as the benefits in terms of less crowded launches, more rugged and arguably scenic landscapes and friendlier folk outweigh the XC numbers. Hence the creation of the northern XC league is to be welcomed, where pilots can compete or compare on a somewhat more level playing field.

With that waffle aside, what are the numbers? It turns out that locally, despite the weather, 2019 was in fact an outstanding year. There were 192 flights entered in the Dales league, totalling 7048 points, compared with 5984 in 2018. Thirteen of these flights were more than 100 points (6 in 2018) and three site records were broken, the first since 2015, along with many personal bests. In April Jake Herbert flew 100 miles from Hawkswick, Dave Smart flew into Scotland from Semer Water taking that record beyond 100km, and in September of all months, Jake smashed the Brant Side record landing near Pickering. In fact, Mike Cavanagh, Pete Logan and Rosie Darwood all went past 100km from Semer Water in April as did Chris Fountain, John Ellison and Pete Logan from Hawkswick. Another very impressive flight, although unfortunately not a site record (not an official Dales site), was when Chris Kay pulled off 100km from the Dentdale side of Whernside in August. Of the 100 pointer circuit flights, John Ellison managed to squeak back to Stags in April for a 52km FAI triangle, Jake sat under an awesome convergence line from Dodd for a 79km out and return in July, and Mike Cavanagh closed a 70km FAI triangle also from Dodd in July.

With that haul, it is not surprising that Jake once again heads the Dales league with 686.9 points, 10 more than he achieved last year. Jake also did very well in the northern league, of which he had the following endorsement "any league I'm the top of is awesome!". In fact, Dales pilots achieved five of the top ten places in the northern league, which considering it comprises six clubs is a great accomplishment.

NORTHERN XC LEAGUE 2018/19 - FINAL STANDINGS (entries accepted until end of 6/11/19)									
	Name	Club	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4	Flight 5	Flight 6	TOTAL
1	Jake Herbert	Dales	166.10	146.70	134.90	106.00	69.60	63.60	686.90
2	David Smart	North Yorks	135.20	114.30	101.10	81.40	76.20	64.60	572.80
3	Mike Cavanagh	Cumbria	140.90	111.00	102.90	88.40	34.20	24.50	501.90
4	Pete Darwood	Dales	93.20	90.20	75.30	70.60	64.90	49.50	443.70
5	Phil Kew	Cumbria	111.60	76.20	72.30	69.00	55.60	53.70	438.40
6	Pete Logan	Dales	127.70	95.20	90.90	51.90	43.70	28.60	438.00
7	John Westall	Cumbria	158.50	64.20	57.40	51.40	48.40	46.60	426.50
8	Chris Fountain	Dales	147.00	72.10	64.10	49.20	46.10	30.50	409.00
9	Chris Kay	Dales	116.20	59.30	57.90	54.30	52.80	51.90	392.40
10	Ben Keayes	Cumbria	105.30	75.30	51.70	51.20	48.90	35.90	368.30

Nationally, the XC league was significantly down this year, with fewer pilots, fewer flights and far fewer points scored. Whether this was due to the lack of a summer, fewer pilots entering or more pilots participating in foreign competitions or holidays, who knows? But what it does mean is that the Dales is much better represented on a national level than in recent years. Nick Pain, Jake Herbert and Richard Meek all made it into the top ten (all had at least one flight down south), and the Dales club rocketed to third position overall, its highest position for many years.

2206 flights 97,817.4 points 305 pilots

League Show Go Year Scoring

Click the flights to display more details. A green score indicates tracklog data. A blue score indicates storyboard data.

Pilot	Club	Glider	Total	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4	Flight 5	Flight 6
1 Graham Steel	XClent	Ozone Zeno	1266.2	277.9	212.6	208.7	192.5	189.1	185.4
2 Richard Carter	Derbyshire	Ozone Zeno	1261.3	252.7	250.5	233.6	214.7	158.1	151.7
3 Wayne Seeley	XClent	Ozone Zeno	1102.5	277.9	192.5	185.4	180.0	155.3	111.4
4 Steve Watts	Long Mynd	Advance Omega Xalps 2	917.4	210.1	185.0	155.6	141.6	123.6	101.5
5 Chris Jackson	Derbyshire	Advance Sigma 10	892.0	195.8	187.7	173.9	131.4	126.1	77.1
6 Alex Coltman	XClent	Ozone Zeno	844.6	308.9	135.5	114.7	111.1	92.7	81.7
7 Nick Pain	Dales	Advance Sigma 10	778.0	204.1	152.3	128.4	109.7	100.8	82.7
8 Ludek Munzar	Grupa 303	Axis Venus 4	767.3	181.4	133.3	121.6	119.3	112.6	99.1
9 Jake Herbert	Dales	Ozone Zeno	756.8	166.1	146.7	134.9	133.5	106.0	69.6
10 Richard Meek	Dales	Ozone Zeno	745.2	153.5	152.9	139.4	119.0	99.4	81.0

Next up, and whilst perhaps not something we should shout about as much in this era of environmental awareness, Dales pilots have once again performed well overseas. Two pilots made the top ten, whilst five pilots have made it into the top 20 of the overseas league, and the club was only beaten into second by some enormous tow launch flights in Brazil.

836 flights 47,378.0 points 119 pilots

League **Overseas** Show **Club Flights** Go Year **2019** Scoring **Standard**

Top 4 pilots score for each club. Click [Show Other Pilots](#) to expand club tables.

Club	Total	
1 XClent	3702.1	Website
1 Guy Anderson	Ozone Enzo 3	2598.4 512.9 461.1 460.0 431.5 424.7 208.2
2 Charles Norwood	Ozone Zeno	1103.7 405.5 298.4 160.5 111.9 92.6 34.8
2 Dales	3106.3	Show Other Pilots (13) Website
1 Nick Pain	Advance Sigma 10	982.5 198.0 181.5 172.9 149.9 146.4 133.8
2 Richard Meek	Ozone Zeno	858.2 200.2 150.1 139.7 133.0 125.1 110.1
3 Pete Darwood	Nova Mentor 5	717.5 147.3 134.6 129.7 118.3 94.1 93.5
4 Rosie Darwood	Nova Ion 4	548.1 122.2 118.4 103.5 77.0 67.4 59.6
3 Avon	2430.2	Show Other Pilots (2) Website
1 Harry Bloxham	Ozone Enzo 3	1914.3 512.9 456.6 432.0 236.7 176.1
2 Iain Mackenzie	BGD Tala	268.7 38.2 57.5 32.9 43.4 41.6 15.1
3 Pete Douglas	Ozone Zeno	142.4 38.9 33.0 30.1 21.7 18.7
4 Ed Weare	Skywalk Chili 4	104.8 54.7 50.1

Finally, and what is even more encouraging to me, is that in addition to the four scoring pilots, we have 20 other pilots entered in the national XC league. There is only one other club with anywhere near this number of pilots entered, Derbyshire with 37, and that club has three times the membership of ours! I think this is a very healthy reflection of the current state of the Dales club, with progression and pilots of all levels, and bodes well for the future. Well done all and keep flying and entering flights in 2020.

2206 flights 97,817.4 points 305 pilots

League **National** Show **Club Flights** Go Year **2019** Scoring **Standard**

Top 4 pilots score for each club. Click [Show Other Pilots](#) to expand club tables.

Club	Total	
1 XClent	3831.2	Show Other Pilots (4) Website
1 Graham Steel	Ozone Zeno	1266.2 277.9 212.6 208.7 192.5 189.1 185.4
2 Wayne Seeley	Ozone Zeno	1102.5 277.9 192.3 185.4 180.0 155.3 111.4
3 Alex Coltman	Ozone Zeno	844.6 308.9 135.5 114.7 111.1 92.7 81.7
4 Ben Friedland	Ozone Delta 3	617.9 112.7 112.2 107.6 107.4 104.6 73.4
2 Derbyshire	3602.3	Show Other Pilots (37) Website
1 Richard Carter	Ozone Zeno	1261.3 252.7 250.5 233.6 214.7 158.1 151.7
2 Chris Jackson	Advance Sigma 10	892.0 195.8 187.7 173.9 131.4 126.1 77.1
3 Chris Ashman	Mac Para Elan 2	730.2 154.0 153.9 117.0 110.0 105.5 89.8
4 Neil Furmidge	UP Trango X Race	718.8 189.5 117.2 114.5 110.1 102.4 85.1
3 Dales	2734.2	Show Other Pilots (20) Website
1 Nick Pain	Advance Sigma 10	778.0 204.1 152.3 128.4 109.7 100.8 82.7
2 Jake Herbert	Ozone Zeno	756.8 166.1 146.7 134.9 133.5 106.0 69.6
3 Richard Meek	Ozone Zeno	745.2 153.5 152.9 139.4 119.0 99.4 81.0
4 Chris Fountain	Ozone Zeno	454.2 147.0 75.7 72.1 64.1 49.2 46.1

Pete Darwood

(Editors Note: Apologies to Pete and all, this should have appeared last month)

Photo Corner – Tailbridge 19th Jan



Carl Maughan