

Ten Trigs

It was an icy cold December morning as I left the house, the road was slippery as I made my way down to Calder College to meet John Taylor for the start of the Ten Trigs. Arrived to find out Ben wasn't coming, (John had just seen him randomly stood on a street corner pastie munching, whereupon he told him he was going to Liverpool to help someone move house ???). So off we went slowly making our way through the icy streets, the steep hill up Meadowbottom was especially bad so we were glad to reach the end of the tarmac. We continued striding up the steep hill until we reached Windy Harbour. We looked across to Stoodley and could see the sun was not far from rising. Then after a short bit of road we stepped out onto the fell proper, there was quite a bit of snow as we jogged to the first trig at Bridestones. As we passed the old Sportsmans pub and went onto Redmires, we stopped and watched the sun rise it was an awesome sight, but as we set off again the going went from good to tough. The heather has grown a lot this year and with a covering of approx 4 – 6 inches of snow, we were soon slowed to a quick walk. Got to within around 75 metres of hitting the stile (which isn't bad) and just stomped on for what seemed like ages till we reached trig 2 at Hoofstones Heights. The view was immense, with Pendle Hill and the Yorkshire 3 peaks glistening in the morning sun, all covered in snow. The going down to below the windmills was good and we set a reasonable pace. I found the trod halfway down to the stream, which helped. A quick ½ mile down the Long Causeway, then a dash/trespass through a field and we were at Trig 3 Robin Cross Hill. The sun was still shining as we started the fast descent into Cliviger. The climb to Theiveley Pike is long and hard at the best of times. The icy conditions slowed us slightly on the way to Trig 4. We passed a fox dancing through the snow on the way up and some sort of smallish Hawk circling above a nearby forest. The ridge along to Sharneyford was hard frozen and we made good time. We left the path and the trod was remarkably visible in the snowy conditions, it took us almost to the stile towards bacup road. We continued over the road and on towards Trig 5 Trough Edge End. We cut off the main track a little early which made it rough going for 5 minutes, but we soon found the right path and the trig. The conditions were still good along to Hades Hill and the sun was still shining, but we noticed cloud down in the valleys, (not a good sign). As we descended past

Watergrove Reservoir towards Trig 6, we were in the mist and managed to take a different line to usual going over, instead of skirting around the little hill before the trig. John checked his GPS and we were heading straight toward the trig so on we went, shortly afterwards the pylon came into view out of the mist with the sun shining through from behind. We missed a path on the way to Littleborough which didn't add much but did include some nice steep cobbles. The road to Lydgate was ok and we trotted on towards the fell. The Roman Road was steep as always then we went along the drain and then direct to Trig 7 Blackstone Edge. By now the weather was turning and the bright morning had turned into a grey afternoon. We drifted a little on the way to the drain above Green Withins Reservoir and had a little longer to run till the turn towards Dog Hill and Trig 8. The path was good and we broke off a few hundred meters before the top for some more tussock bashing. Amazingly we saw someone at the trig in the mist, but we didn't stop to chat for long. As we started to descend toward the A58 road crossing at Baitings the heavens opened and we were in a full on blizzard. The road was closed over the reservoir and we had to duck under some metal fencing to get over the newly concreted bridge. After feeling good all day (as John had struggled through a long bad patch) my legs gave up the ghost on the last bit of the climb to Manshead End and we trundled along the top to Trig 9. My legs began to move again and we managed to run most of the way to Cragg Road, then all of the way past the White Holme Reservoir. The path from here to Holder Stones has been getting better lately, (the fences have only been in place about 3 years so it's taken time for them to form) and are now a lot better than 2 years ago when there wasn't one. We trudged on but had nothing left in our legs. I had a minutes rest sat on the floor and John made me drink, which brought me back round. I was sure we were nearly at the Trig a couple of times, but we weren't. Then out of the mist I could see it, Trig 10 the Little Holder Stones, jubilation and happiness was quickly replaced by the fun of finding the next path. The weather was now dire, very cold, wet and snowy. We were struggling to run and feet were starting to really feel the cold. We found the path after 5 minutes and amazingly through the blizzard, I hit the stone bridge at the back of Warland Reservoir spot on. I set off jogging then turned round to see John stumbling along quite slowly. He asked if I had any food and I got out some emergency flapjack. This brought him round and we trotted down the stones to Gaddings Dam. I

decided to take a short cut to save a few hundred yards, this involved a steep slope and John proceeded to do a spectacular roll/fall before playing dead. I didn't want to go back to save him so shouted up and a hand rising above the ground showed there were signs of life. A couple of moans and groans and he was back on his feet. The comment he made on facebook went something like 'Dan was so concerned he almost moved away from the fence post he was leaning on'. We kept going now and the jog down past Honey Hole and through town went quickly. We finished in 7hrs 45, could have done faster but we faded after Cragg Road as the temperature dropped and we tired. As you will now know I was knocked off my bike 3 days later, but am slowly recovering and hope to be able to do the Ten Trigs again towards the end of the year.

Trig	Total time	Stage Time
Bridestones	30 mins	30 mins
Hoofstones	1 hr 7 mins	37 mins
Robin Cross Hill	1 hr 39 mins	32 mins
Theiveley Pike	2 hrs 9 mins	30 mins
Trough Edge End	2 hrs 55 mins	46 mins
Watergrove	3 hrs 40 mins	45 mins
Blackstone Edge	4 hrs 45 mins	1hr 5 mins
Dog Hill	5 hrs 19 mins	34 mins
Great Manshead End	6hrs	41 mins
Little Holder Stones	6 hrs 50 mins	50 mins
Calder College	7 hrs 45 mins	55 mins