

THE 39 TRIGS CHALLENGE

Distance	At least 105 miles
Total climb	Approx 20000ft
Objective	To bag all 39 trig points on the South Pennines O.S. map 1:25000 in one attempt
Start and finish	Mytholroyd Community Centre
First successful attempt:	Rhys Kift and Peter White 29th June,1991
	32 hours 41 mins

The idea was the brainchild of Bod who about 2½yrs ago said he'd searched the map and found 39 trig points and that it would be a good idea to go out and bag them all in one go. I was busy at the time sorting out the SPAMM and just had a quick look at the list of trigs agreeing that it looked good.

Meanwhile Bod had plotted all the points and was quietly jogging round them all sorting out the possible routes.

Anyway, at the beginning of Summer 91 my employer decided that he didn't need my services any longer, and finding that I had some time to myself I thought I'd get a couple of runs sorted out. The first was the Bob Graham, which I completed in early June, and feeling suitably pleased with myself turned my attention to the 39 trigs.

Fired with enthusiasm I contacted Bod and after a short meeting together with Rod agreed a date for the attempt. Rod, although very keen couldn't attempt it before August because of other commitments. Bod became less certain in the ensuing days because he was due to move house at any time so I casually mentioned it to Pete and he was immediately dead keen on doing it.

Unfortunately, Bod was still uncertain about his house move and not being 100% fit he pulled out, so it was down to me and Pete.

We very quickly recced most sections of the route, each of us going out and doing separate sections in the tricky areas - we already knew large sections from previous training runs and events.

I spent many hours devising the route trying to find what I thought was the optimum route to pick up all the trigs and drew up a time schedule based on 25 hours and at 8.00am on Saturday,29th June, we were off.....

SECTION 1

M.C.C. - Sheepstones Edge - High Brown Knoll - Cross Hill - Standing Stone Hill - Bridestones - StoodleyPike - Little Holder Stones - Light Hazzles Edge - Blackstone Edge - Lydgate.

We left M.C.C. in perfect conditions, bright blue sky, sunny, light breeze, taking the first climb to Sheepstones very steady. We followed good tracks to High Brown Knoll then down to Midgehole and up to Cross Hill, Heptonstall, by the water tower. We kept noticing fresh tracks, definitely Walshes

and were convinced it was Bod who must have set off earlier - the stud marks were following our route exactly!!!!

After the long pull up to Standing Stone Hill we found a good line through Dukes Cut to Bridestones then down to the road in Todmorden for a very welcome cup of tea and banana sandwiches provided by our ever faithful back up team - Margaret, Rosie and Jackie.

A jog and a steady climb soon brought up Stoodley Pike, this is a trig point marked on the map but as you know there isn't an actual triangulation point. We then got stuck into the long tedious run out to Blackstone Edge taking in Little Holder Stones and Light Hazzles Edge (again no trig point) A steady run off Blackstone Edge brought us into Lydgate where our back up were ready with more tea, rice pudding and peaches etc.. We were feeling good here and a few minutes up on our schedule.

SECTION 2

East Hill - Rusby Hill - Hunger Hill - Brown Wardle Hill – Freeholds Top - Small Shaw Height - Thievley Pike - Holme Chapel

We set off after 10 minutes rest in good weather on the long leg basically from Rochdale to Nelson. I'm sure we looked a little out of place trotting through the Saturday morning shoppers on Littleborough High Street making our way out to Shore and East Hill. We then had some complicated sections making our way to Rusby Hill through Healy dell out to Hunger Hill and back to Brown Wardle Hill(trig missing)

We had a slight fall out about the best line over Hades Hill but Pete soon saw my point of view and we followed an obvious route which took us direct on the ridge path to Freeholds Top (Trough Edge End) taking in part of the Rossendale Way. We followed good tracks down to Higher Broad Clough, just North of Bacup, and then tackled the stiff short climb up to Small Shaw Height where we could see the dark shape of Thievley Pike in the distance. This was our next summit after which we dropped down into Holme Chapel. My legs were definitely feeling the effects of the steep descent off Thievley Pike, and we could clearly see the huge mass of Hoof Stones Height waiting for us. We'd covered about 38 miles but the weariness soon evaporated at the sight of our back up team with very welcome refreshments. It was now nearly 6.00pm but we'd only 67 miles to go!

SECTION 3

Merrill Head - Hoof Stones Height - Delf Hill - Extwistle Hill Marsden Height - Waltons Monument - Lad Law - Little Wolf Stones – Withins Heights - Penistone Car Park.

Our back up team were to leave us here in the good hands of Linda and Irene who would wait for us at Penistone Hill (Haworth) We were to pass through Duncan's territory so he agreed to meet us with a flask of tea after Marsden Heights. We set off knowing that this was to be a very tough section, some of it over ground we weren't too sure of.

A steady climb over Merrill Head brought us to the road which we jogged along in the evening sun to Stiperden Bar and then up to the summit of Hoof Stones Height. It seemed an eternity down to Gorple Stones, followed by a very difficult section over very tussocky ground to Delph Hill which was reached in fine conditions with clear views of Nelson and the landscape round to the menacing bulk

of Lad Law in the distance. Peter had checked out this section so the going was a little easier as we followed good field paths picking up Extwistle Hill. As we toiled up the long climb to Marsden Heights we were encouraged by the thought of Duncan who would be waiting for us with hot drinks, only to find on our arrival at Marsden Heights which is situated on a Golf Course, NO DUNCAN! Thoroughly depressed we both trudged across this magnificent golf course to the trig point, wondering what could have happened, was he waiting somewhere else? had he forgotten? Can't have..."Did I tell him the right place?" enquired Pete in his usual calming tones! We silently marched along the 11th hole - 274 yds - par 4 - suddenly feeling very tired, cold, weary, fed up when.....there he was! Duncan, stood on the wall at the summit, waving, what a good bloke!! We ran across, touched the trig, briefly explained where we needed him and ran off across the golf course to where Duncan had drinks ready. It was very welcome.

Duncan met us again a couple of miles further on at Waltons Monument where it was starting to rain unexpectedly, darkness coming on earlier. We had hoped to get over Lad Law and Wolf Stones before dark but it was obvious we weren't going to make it - conditions were deteriorating rapidly. Duncan pointed out the best way onto Lad Law so off we went- we both knew this was going to be hard - we'd done 56 miles and the old legs were complaining.

It was just about dark as we tried-to find the track up Lad Law but we'd missed it, so we stumbled over the tussocks for an eternity aiming directly for the summit. We found the trig in total blackness - the rain had stopped and we could clearly see the lights of Nelson in the distance and closer the road past the Herders pub.

We were now one hour down, mainly because I hadn't allowed for any stopping time at feeding places, thinking we would be up on our schedule anyway. The route is fairly tough and we weren't able to keep up on my normal 100 mile pace which is 5mph for the first 12 hours then struggle in! I'd based our times on 8k/hr for 100k then 6k to the finish, but we couldn't maintain it.

With the mist just threatening to engulf us we found the track off and jogged down to the main track at the bottom - the Pendle Way. We followed this with some difficulty till we met the road - it was now raining steadily, the wind was freshening and we were getting cold. We'd left Holme Chapel a long time ago in good weather, in shorts, but things were a lot different now - it was cold, wet, and we'd no more backup till Haworth. It was a mistake, we should have had backup on this road. This was a long section - 26 miles - without support, in serious country.

A compass bearing took us to Wolf Stones, a horrendous climb in these conditions- no path - just tussocks, then rocks covered in bilberry bushes. The descent was just as bad, we hit a series of walls, all of which had to be climbed before we got back to the road.

Peter had sorted out this next bit to Withins - it involved the climbing of a terrible gully, which in daylight would be OK, but in the dark and the rain it was a different matter. I cursed Peter all the way up, falling into the flooded clough several times, questioning his navigational abilities and his parentage! He proudly pointed to a heap of 5 or 6 stones, this was his marker cairn - fabulous! This marked the point where we had to climb a nearly vertical dirt cliff, which had now turned to mud. This took us out onto Withins moor and miraculously we went straight to the trig.

Conditions were really bad now and we couldn't find the track from the ruin down the Bronte bridge, we ended up on the Pennine Way, having to run back again to the ruin to make sure we were on the right track. It's dead obvious in daylight but not in these conditions and after 60+ miles.

The run down to Penistone went on forever, we were now well down on our schedule, some three hours, it was still raining and very windy.

With some relief we saw lights flashing in the distance, Linda and Irene must have seen our headtorches, they also looked very relieved to see us, forgetting plans to call out the moorland rescue! and concentrating on getting a brew on.

We needed a good rest here, surprisingly stopping for an hour. Fully changed and getting plenty of food down. The girls did a superb job. With road shoes on we set off on the next leg, just as dawn was breaking.

SECTION 4

Penistone Hill - Branshaw Moor - Catstones Hill - Nab Hill - Soil Hill East - Soil Hill West - Delph Hill - Mount Tabor

We left the car on very stiff legs, taking 100 yards or so to loosen up again. We searched Penistone Hill in half light and drizzle, a very grey dawn looking for a grey trig point. At one point we charged down a track sure we could see it - it turned out to be a horse! We then ran across to a trig shaped bush! Pete ran all over the place shouting abuse at everything and everyone - even the horse. After deciding to run right round the moor it just turned up - no problem!

We jogged in to Haworth, past the Church, eventually finding the right road through Mytholmes up onto Branshaw Moor, another golf course. Retracing our steps back to the road, I picked out our route across Damems to Catstones Hill. This involves losing a lot of height and a tough climb back out of the valley. The girls were waiting by the Guide pub, I snatched an orange, which was just the job and trotted over Catstones Hill and down into Cullingworth. I was feeling the effects of the lack of sleep now as we trudged up the road to the Five Flags, walking with my eyes closed, actually nodding off and staggered into the wall!

We stoked up at the Five Flags, said cheerio and set off down the road on our way to Nab Hill, we wouldn't see them again until Mount Tabor. This section seemed to be very tough, we were progressing very slowly. Mind you we'd done 75 miles, only 30 to go !!

Pete was really suffering with his feet as we approached Mount Tabor and looked done in as we toiled over Delph Hill. Approaching Mount Tabor I ran ahead to get the girls ready with plenty of plasters clean socks and his road shoes.

Margaret rejoined us here informing us that Jackie would be waiting at Wainhouse Tower. The sun had come out now, a miraculous change in the weather, we had dry socks on, filled up with food, and we suddenly felt fresh, even though we'd covered about 82 miles. The running to Wainhouse Tower was at a good pace, we'd definitely changed gear and felt good.

The section from Haworth to Mount Tabor after a bad night section had seen us at our lowest ebb but we were over it now and ready for the last couple of sections - we could see the end.

SECTION 5

Wainhouse Tower - Greetland Moor - Norland Moor -Wholestone Moor - Rishworth Lodge

Briefly touching Wainhouse Tower - there's no trig here - we joined the team and tucked in again. This was to be a short stop as we were keen to be off. Jogging down Wakefield Gate we soon got to the main road and across it heading for Pickwood Scar. Another steep climb and some steady jogging brought us onto Greetland Moor - again no trig point. Following the Calderdale Way across Norland Moor we were being passed by orienteers galloping in all directions, making us feel very slow even though we were going quite well. Touching the trig we could see the welcome sight of the team waiting on the road with another welcome brew.

Our backup was more regular now, it was necessary to keep us going. We now had the prospect of a long road section through Barkisland and Krumlin, out to Outlane with the horrendous Penny Hill to overcome. We were still feeling good, just jogging on steadily, walking up Penny Hill in lovely sunny conditions.

We seemed to reach the M62 bridge in no time, in fact before our backup had arrived, so we carried on over Wholestone Moor, passing Scammonden Water watching the yachts tacking into the stiff breeze. We were as glad as they were for the breeze as the sun was now quite hot. Recrossing the M62 we ran under the massive wall of Boothwood Reservoir and crossed the road for another welcome rest at Rishworth Lodge. This was a perfect spot, sat in the shade with both families fussing over our every need, and we knew we'd almost done it, 96 miles done.

SECTION 6

Dog Hill - Manshead End - Crow Hill - Mytholmroyd Community Centre.

Irene, who had been up all night, joined us for the last section, and she looked slightly nervous about keeping up with us! It was a refreshing change from listening to Pete wingeing all the way (sorry Pete). It's a long way to Dog Hill summit but we were going well and feeling good and soon reached it.

Off Dog Hill we descended down to a track which leads to the road over Baitings dam , which saved our legs a bit, and had another quick snack, SPAM SANDWICHES, absolutely superb - 99 miles done.

Not hanging about we set off again with very stiff legs on the dreaded climb up Manshead, which wasn't too bad, reaching the summit in high spirits in fantastic weather. Crow Hill was clear in the distance, so we charged off the summit, now going at normal training pace, which was amazing after the distance we had covered. We got to Crow Hill in no time, a quick photo at the summit and a bit of arm waving and off we went at full speed down the tracks to Mytholmroyd.

We'd done it.....miles in 32 hours 41 mins 15 secs.

We'd been to every trig on the map in one trip, it took a bit longer than expected, but we'd done it. No doubt somebody else will try it, I hope they do. It's a fantastic route, visiting places you'd never think of going to.

It was a lot tougher than I expected, mainly because of the nature of the event, there are a lot of isolated summits, so there is a lot of climbing and route finding is a little tricky in places. I suppose the time can be reduced to sub 30 hours, 28 hours is probably the right time, never the less we've set the standard and it's there to be beat.

We think that it should be done as two unaccompanied runners, to make it more interesting, with just road side backup. This will prevent big packs of runners passing over what is in places private land. It also cuts out the moronic runners who just latch onto groups with no idea of where they've been or where they're going. It also means that both runners have got to know what they are doing on the fells.

GIVE IT A GO !!!

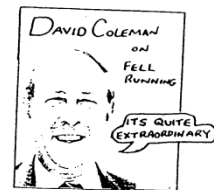
Finally I must thank all those who helped out, making the attempt a successful one. They did a fabulous job - after all we only did the running!

Margaret, Rosie, Sally, Heather.

Jackie, Robert, Penny the dog, Duncan,

especially Linda and Irene for the night section.

P-S- The mystery footprints we saw in the early stages were Bod's who had done the first couple of sections the day before, and of course we ought to thank Bod for thinking up the idea in the first place.



SOUTH PENNINE 39 TRIG CHALLENGE 105 MILES APPROX

No	Name	Grid Ref	Dist Acc	Est Time	Act Time	Height
1	Sheepstones Edge	015278	2K	0830	0825	1315
2	High Brown Knoll	009304	5K	0850	0847	1453
3	Cross Hill	983284	9.5K	0935	0925	954
4	Standing Stone HI	952303	13.5K	1005	0955	1305
5	Bridestones	932267	17.7K	1040	1030	1437
CP	Rose & Crown	Time in	10.55	Time out	1059	
6	Stoodley Pike	973243	24.3K	1145	1131	1319
7	Little Holder Stns	969213	27.4K	1200	1156	1378
8	Lt Hazzles Edge	963193	29.6K	1215	1248	1246
9	Blackstone Edge	972163	33.1K	1250	1312	1549
RV	Lydgate (21 mls)	955164				
10	East Hill	919176	39.1K	1340	1350	1004
11	Rusby Hill	890167	42.5K	1410	1419	1033
12	Hunger Hill	865159	45.7K	1435	1447	1044
13	Brown Wardle Hill	898186	48.4K	1520	1538	1312
14	Freeholds Top	906218	50.6K	1545	1611	1489
15	Small Shaw Ht	861246	56.6K	1640	1708	1342
16	Thievley Pike	872272	59.6K	1705	1735	1473
RV	Holme Chapel (38ml)	875285	Time in 1755	Time out	1815	
17	Merrill Head	885295	62.3K	1745	1831	1079
18	Hoof Stone Height	914292	65.8K	1820	1907	1571
19	Delf Hill	899337	72.0K	1910	2001	1247
20	Extwistle Hill	875340	75.0K	1935	2025	794
21	Marsden Heights	862362	78.1K	2005	2057	886
CP	Finsley Rd (50mls)	869358				
22	Waltons Monument	894373	82.0K	2040	2140	1109
23	Lad Law	929356	86.2K	2135	2245	1696
24	Lt Wolf Stones	971394	92.8K	2230	2345	1453
25	Withins Height	978358	97.3K	2305	0145	1457
RV	Penistone Hill	020364	Time in 0225	Time out	0325	
26	Penistone Hill	023367	102.3K	2335	0345	1030
27	Branshaw Moor	037396	106.1K	0020	0430	942
28	Catstones Hill	069383	110.1K	0100	0520	955
CP	Five Flags (75mls)	064355				
29	Nab Hill	036324	118.1K	0220	0658	1480
30	Soil Hill East	079315	122.3K	0300	0842	1322
31	Soil Hill West	077313	122.5K	0305	0851	1309
32	Delph Hill	899337	127.0K	0345	0851	1227
RV	Mount Tabor (82mls)	054272				
33	Wainhouse Tower	078240	133.6K	0445	1010	
34	Greetland Moor	074221	138.8	0515	1052	721
35	Norland Moor	055214	138.8K	0535	1110	932
36	Wholestone Moor	078116	145.8K	0630	1231	1246
CP	Rishworth Lodge	026165				
37	Dog Hill	003171	154.0K	0740	1429	1427
38	Manshead End	998198	156.8K	0810	1540	1368
39	Crow Hill	019229	160.8K	0830	1610	1256
	Mytholmroyd C.C.	013260	163.8K	0900	1640	

39 TRIGS CHALLENGE.

