

## **Ten Tors 35 Mile Challenge report**

### **John Fell**

***Team: Rosie Campbell-Barnard, John Fell, Edward Doyle-Davidson, Archie McConkie, Seb Jarman + Oscar (last minute replacement)***

After a slightly slow start due to the large number of teams all heading out in the same direction, once the routes started to split up our team started off at a storming pace of a 12-minute kilometre - averaging a checkpoint per hour. As we set off at this pace the whole team managed to keep up with good speed and high morale. From checkpoint 1 to 3 there was a section of very rough ground and difficult navigation, but the team managed to keep to a good pace making it to Hare Tor in good time after passing through Cp 2.

At around this time the excitement of the start had started to wear off, but we kept morale high with some chat and tried to just get in the groove and keep moving at a consistent pace. We then descended into the very familiar lowland area of Standon farm. We pushed at a slightly slower pace up the challenging track up to White Barrow then through to Holming Beam where we meet the boys 45-mile team.

It was at this point we all had to work as a team to overcome the issue of our river crossing point being flooded so we had to travel upriver to another point. Our team then went across the hill side to our next tor. This now would be a defining moment for a lot of our team members as we all dropped in energy and morale as we descended to Postbridge. From Postbridge we then had to make the difficult decision to not push on to the Cp after Sittaford tor. We decided that as we had some members fighting quite severe pain in the feet and exhaustion, we would stay at Sittaford to preserve our energy for Sunday.

In the morning we had to immediately work with the next challenge which was the dense fog. We moved down to Fernworthy Forest in which most of the tracks on the map which we had planned to follow weren't there so I made the decision to go to the reservoir and then up to Kes tor. From there we had to slowly make our way through the fog to Buttern hill and from there to Steeperton Tor. This would severely test our navigational skills and our performance under very stressful situations, we would finally after a long time make it to Hound Tor then up to the summit of Steeperton.

From Steeperton we had to reduce the pace as a lot of the members of our team fought their tiredness and pains to keep up. We made the short journey to Okement hill. Now finally we just had to make it up the long hill to our final checkpoint at High Willhays over unpathed terrain. Now was the final 5Km down to the finish at Okehampton camp this would show the members of our team such as Seb and Rosie fighting their excitement to finish to stick together as a team as Archie was fighting an injury in his feet. We still made it across the line as a full team at the very good finish time of 12:54. I am really proud of our team for working together to not only achieve a good time but also ensure that we crossed the line as a team of 6.