

Solo, winter, longest mountain run? 9 hours will be in darkness, on your own? Challenge accepted!. Challenge achieved.

My solo run of 50 mountains with great ground support. Especially at short notice of a week.

I enjoyed the Cassie's Challenge. It is such a fun interesting route. So thanks to Harry Teggarty and others for setting, it up.

I set off morning of Tuesday 11th of October 2022 at 4.03am. I had the first about 3 hours in darkness.

Section, 1, Annalong harbour to Bloody bridge river crossing. 4.03am to 6.39am, time took 2 hours 36 minutes.

Section, 2, Blood bridge river crossing to Slievenamaddy. 6.39am to 8.52am, time took 2 hours 12 minutes, total time 4 hours 48 minutes.

Section, 3, Slievenamaddy to Ben Crom Reservoir. 8.52am to 11.39am. time took 2 hours 47 minutes, total time 7 hours 35 minutes.

Section, 4, Ben Crom Reservoir to Ott car Park. 11.39am to 15.18pm. time took 3 hours 39 minutes, total time 11 hours 14 minutes.

Section 5, Ott Car Park to weir on rocky river. 15.18pm to 18.18pm. time took 3 hours, total time 14 hours 14 minutes

Section 6, Hen track to Deer's Meadow. 18.18pm to 21.22pm. time took 3 hours 4 minutes, total 17hours 18 minutes

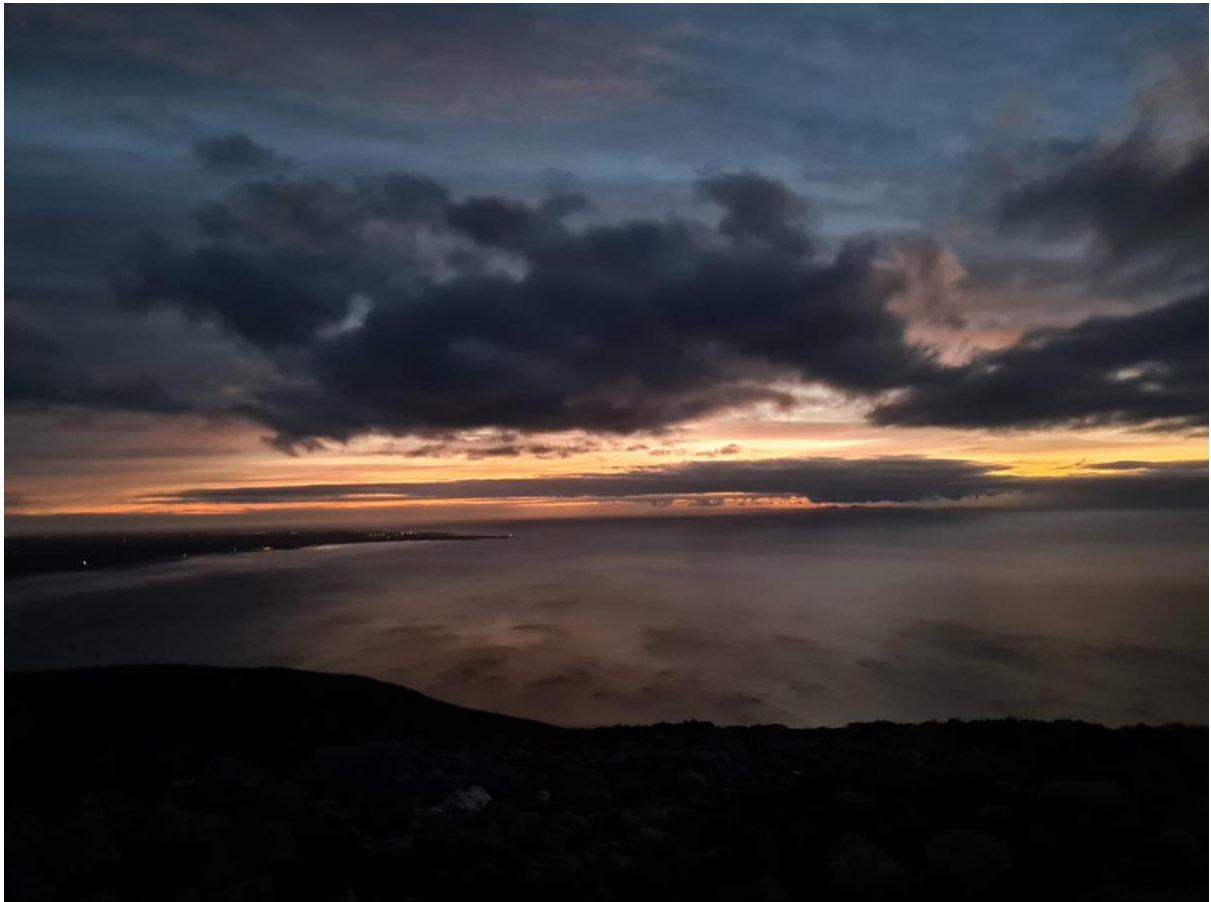
Section 7, Deer's Meadow to Annalong harbour 21.22pm to 3.13am. time took 5 hours 47. Total 23 hours 8 minutes

Set off from home at 9pm, stopped to get thai food on route to set me up.

Slept a few hours in my car before my planned 4am start. Up and ready to go.

Section one. Two, three and four.

Was a lovely start, dry not windy. Lovely morning for it.



Crossone and i fell out again. It is not pleasant lol

Meet a friend on slievenaglogh around 10am he had warm tea, treats, Stopped a few minutes and ran on. Don't think I moaned much Lol 😊 🏃‍♀️



Views were amazing all day, nice clear day.



Section five and 6

Ben crom is fun to scramble up the way i did haha. Took a wrong turn on top of bearnagh but didn't cost much time. Slieve loughshannagh to doan is great by this point haha

Got to ott carpark at 3.18pm for first road support.

Friend was there with his handy van and ready with my drop box and hot pasta. Held up my boggie feet up and said Craig help!,



Craig got to work lol, got shoes socks off while I ate. (Should of painted my nails lol).

Ouch

He dried my feet and took great delight in hurting my feet lol.





After they dried another friend johnny got to work massaging my feet and ankles lol. Best foot massage ever, no lie lol.

Craig filled my water. Gels, helped sort bag. Got quickly refreshed and off again.



Meet Craig 50 minutes later at next road crossing, River Bann Crossing to grab headtorch and extra water and get his last boost of moral support, before he retired from ground support.



Ciarán McAleenan was also there to take a few pics on behalf of the organisers of the challenge.

Off again.

It was a dark evening, was asking myself why is it so dark lol lol. Sky full of rain so I was in darkness by 7pm had to hit shanlieve, yellow water bog in darkness horrid place to be, EVER!!!, some swearing occurred about how it should be wiped off the planet, sheep looking at me like I was insane lol 😊😊

Think it was the sheep swearing as I don't swear. Haha

Anyway after knee deep bog (and that was pure luck as its waist deep in places) I got up and on.

Final Section 7

Hit next and last road support at 9.22pm.

Meet again by johnny, he was ready with my last drop box, he got to work getting my shoes and socks off as I lay on the ground. Another great foot massage (seriously).



Hot tea. Hot insides.

Few keen Mountain friends watched the dots and came there to cheer me on and offer support thank you so much, nice surprise.



Had also two lovely police officers who drove by then came back to stop by to see if i was ok as they passed a weird scene. Me lying on the ground with 3 car lights pointed at me and 3 men round me lol. Me with only shorts on no socks or shoes.



Lol



Big boost of spirit as the laughter was good, lady police woman was asking a lot of questions. I was blown away lol.



I didn't stop long as i wanted to get going as i knew the rain was on way.

Got quite disoriented on Slievenagore with tiredness and weather. So legs got ripped off me in the jaggies (gorse) trying to find the path down to Silent Valley i went right through them, (i would like to say I've never made that mistake before in my life or that i repeated that mistake twice or that i did indeed do it a third time in shorts at 11.40pm after running over 18 hours. Not a ideal situation. But no that's the third time I've went through that mine field of jaggies.

The actual path is bad enough so anyone who has been on it imagine coming through it looking for the path. I heard a lot of cursing, must of been me. Lol.

Rain and wind started on wee Binnian.

Wasn't long before I was just thinking best get out of here ASAP. I knew escape routes from there but wanted to finish the route.

Weird how much goes through your mind when you battle your own will, Determination , and think you can't succeed at something.

I Hit the last road junction Wednesday morning at 2.34am I wish I had left a drop box there with layers and more waterproofs, but know for again, i was soaked to the bones (so much for my waterproof skin. Need wind proof skin lol.) Could hear my bones rattling lol

Last 3 miles ish was road running. Can't say I ran a great deal, dislike road running. And energy was depleted.

Finished at 3.12am

Time 23.08 hours

Thanks to support of friends for all the voice notes of support it was great . And for the supportive messages encouraging me on.