

O-BrOč Brač Orienteering Championships

2nd - 4th October 2020

by Tony Udris, SYO

Back in February in the more normal times, I was kindly invited by friends to take part in OK Maksimir Club's 3rd O-BrOč competition on the Croatian island of Brač. For practical reasons in the current situation, the competition was scaled back from 4 days to 3, and from 5 to 3 events. Despite the prevailing conditions and trouble sourcing suitable travel options, over 160 athletes from 6 countries made it.

The island of Brač is one of a number of scenic islands off the Dalmatian, Croatian coast, a short 50-minute ferry journey from Split, which is also the most convenient International airport. The 150sq mile



Broč Medals.

island has a high point of 780m, covered by unique Black Pine trees and famed for its white rock (from which the winner's medals were specially made). In season,



Day 1 Clouds.

O-BrOč sprint PH		3.5 km	
M21A	M21B		
▷	←	△	⊗
1 31	■		∇
2 32	⊙		⊙
3 33	⊞		⊞
4 34	⊞	⊞	⊞
5 35	←	△	⊙
6 36	▲		
7 37	●		
8 38	●		
9 39	◇		⊙
10 40	→	■	∇
11 41	↗		∇
12 42	△		⊙
13 43	△	⊞	⊞
14 44	×		⊙
15 45	↗		∇
16 46	↗	△	⊙
17 47	↗	△	∇
18 100	△		⊙

Postira
Scale 1:4000, 5m
Mapper: Tomislav Kaniški
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Harbour Views.

tourists delight in the warm waters at Bol (pebbly) beach. The events' date of the first weekend of October meant it was a pleasantly warm 23 degrees. A cloudy and windy start but a wonderfully sunny calm final day on the Sunday with the waters of the Adriatic being perfect for an after-race dip!

The first event was an evening Night Sprint held in the town of Postira, where many competitors chose to stay at the well-positioned Hotel Pastura with specially negotiated price. The night race used the Eastern part of the town and previous map, starting on the coastal road, with the majority of the course being straightforward around the small residential streets and connecting pathways, though with two short but steep climbs up the hilly town, before legs back along the rocky shoreline to a magnificently positioned finish on the beach. No personal navigational issues, just a lack of fitness and without the brightest headtorch, finishing just 13 seconds behind 3rd place.

Stage 2 remained in Postira for a daytime Sprint race but on a new map. From a picturesque waterfront start location, the courses climbed around the western residential areas with some crucial route choices,



Day 2 Finish down the cobbles.

before heading down with some short legs around the car park and town hall before finishing through the narrow and distinctly cobbled passages (in which one was partly blocked by a pile of builder's sand!), to a Finish on the harbour quay. A steady unspectacular run, but 3rd in the race and now just 4 seconds behind a podium spot overall on my M45 class, so all to play for. This race was also the Croatian Sprint Championships, so well done to the winners at the prize-giving, but despite being 3rd, and running for my newly officially adopted club, Orijentacijski klub Varazdin, no medal due to non-residency! After the cancellation of a planned afternoon race, we had plenty of time for island sightseeing.

Stage 3 was a half-hour drive towards the island's highest point, at the hamlet of Gazul, a small rustic settlement of stone houses and cattle & sheepfolds in a forested grazing area. Another 30 minute uphill and stony walk to the start and courses were then mostly downhill, (which is where my run went too!), commencing in semi-open pasture but a tricky-sited control #2 where a bad direct route choice lost me 8 minutes as I arrived at the circle confused instead of opting for a cautious approach using the obvious sheepfolds as attack points. Even 30+ year experienced orienteers forget the basics! The middle section was more straightforward,



Postira Punta
Scale 1:4000, 5m
Mapper: Tomislav Kaniški
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O-BrOČ noćni sprint			
M21A	3.1 km		
1 31	▲	○	○
2 32	↖	○	○
3 33	←	○	○
4 34	↘	○	○
5 35	■	○	○
6 36	⊙	○	○
7 37	⊙	○	○
8 38	↖	○	○
9 39	▲	○	○
10 40	↖	○	○
11 41	↖	○	○
12 100	FE	○	○
13 43	▲	○	○
14 44	○	○	○
15 45	⊙	○	○
16 46	↖	○	○
17 100	FE	○	○

Day 2 Finish.



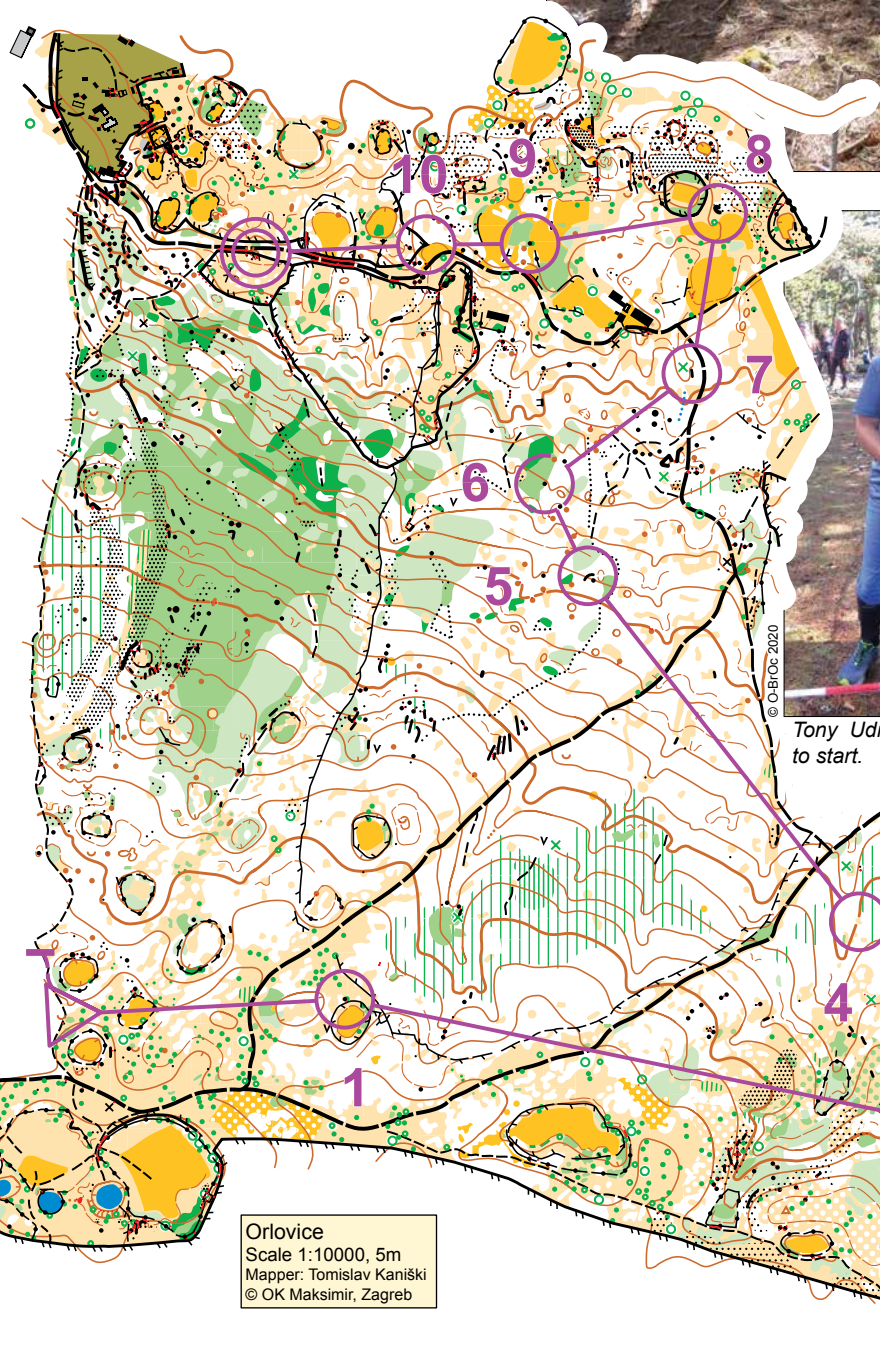
although now lacking confidence, but enjoying the run through the island's unique, low growing, black pine trees with a clean floor though stony in places. The last section was a pleasing run through grazing meadows to distinct, rocky control points making the overall course really enjoyable. The mistake meant I kept 4th place but had experienced the best of the island. My adopted club was more successful, achieving 5 Gold medals (although actually made from local Brač stone!) and a total of 18 podium places. The 15.30 return ferry to the mainland then seemed like an orienteer's special!

Thank you to my friends Mirka and Petar, Maksimir O Club organisers and in particular mapper and organiser Tomislav Kaniški. They welcome all International competitors to a bigger, better event 1st - 3rd October 2021 (we hope) and thoroughly recommended to any Brits for a superb holiday competition with friendly Croatian orienteers.

Results from this year at www.OrienteeringOnline.net



Brač Forest.



Tony Udris ready to start.

BrOČ 2020				
	M45	3.6 km	45 m	
	90 m			→△
▷		▲	<	○
1	55	▲		○
2	33	∩	∩	
3	46	∩		
4	35	↑		
5	50	∩		○
6	37	▲		○
7	60	∩		
8	39	∩		○
9	56	▲		○
10	100	∩		○
○	230 m			○

Orlovice
Scale 1:10000, 5m
Mapper: Tomislav Kaniški
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