

Plzeň MTBO-5 days

O-Ringen for MTB-orienteers

The Czechs are not just famous for making beer. Among MTB-orienteers they are also renowned for organising high quality races with good parties.

This year's Plze MTBO-5 days, organized 4-8th of July 2007, was also the official training camp for the MTBO World Championships later in the year. 440 riders from 12 countries, 110 of them in the Elite classes, were drawn by the races and the cultural program which included, among other things, a live rock concert, a picture presentation by a guy who won the Iditarod-MTB-race through Alaska in winter and of course a beer drinking competition that was, as usual, won by the organizers. Most competitors stayed in bungalows in the three campsites all within 500m of the event centre. At my campsite the tap water was as yellow as an isotonic drink and only warm at

certain hours which always seemed to coincide with the price giving ceremony.

The first two days and the last one were supposed to be the most relevant to the World Championships. In those forests the storm "Kyrill" had blown down lots of trees in the preceding winter and the tracks were quite deeply rutted by tractors that had pulled the trees out of the forest. But the organizers told us that it would be even harder at the World Champs so everybody tried to get friendly with that kind of terrain.

For the third day's sprint race a whole



Photo: Petr Kocandrlé



Photo: Petr Kocandrlé



Photo: Mlatil



Photo: Walter Haselsberger

Plzen MTBO-5 days

5-stages individual race in MTBO. Each of the five stages is of a different type.

Organizer: KOS Plzeň
Date: 4-8th of July 2007
Approx. 440 bikers

Website: www.mtbo5days.eu/



park in the town of Plzeň was closed to the public. On a 1:5.000 map everything comes up very fast and you easily ride past track junctions and controls. A 1,2m high tunnel awaited the riders in the middle of the race. Before starting the riders could check if their bikes would make it through a model of the tunnel made from paper between two rubbish bins. Tall riders had to make some modifications to their bikes in order not to get stuck. In the end everybody made it through the tunnel without any major problems.

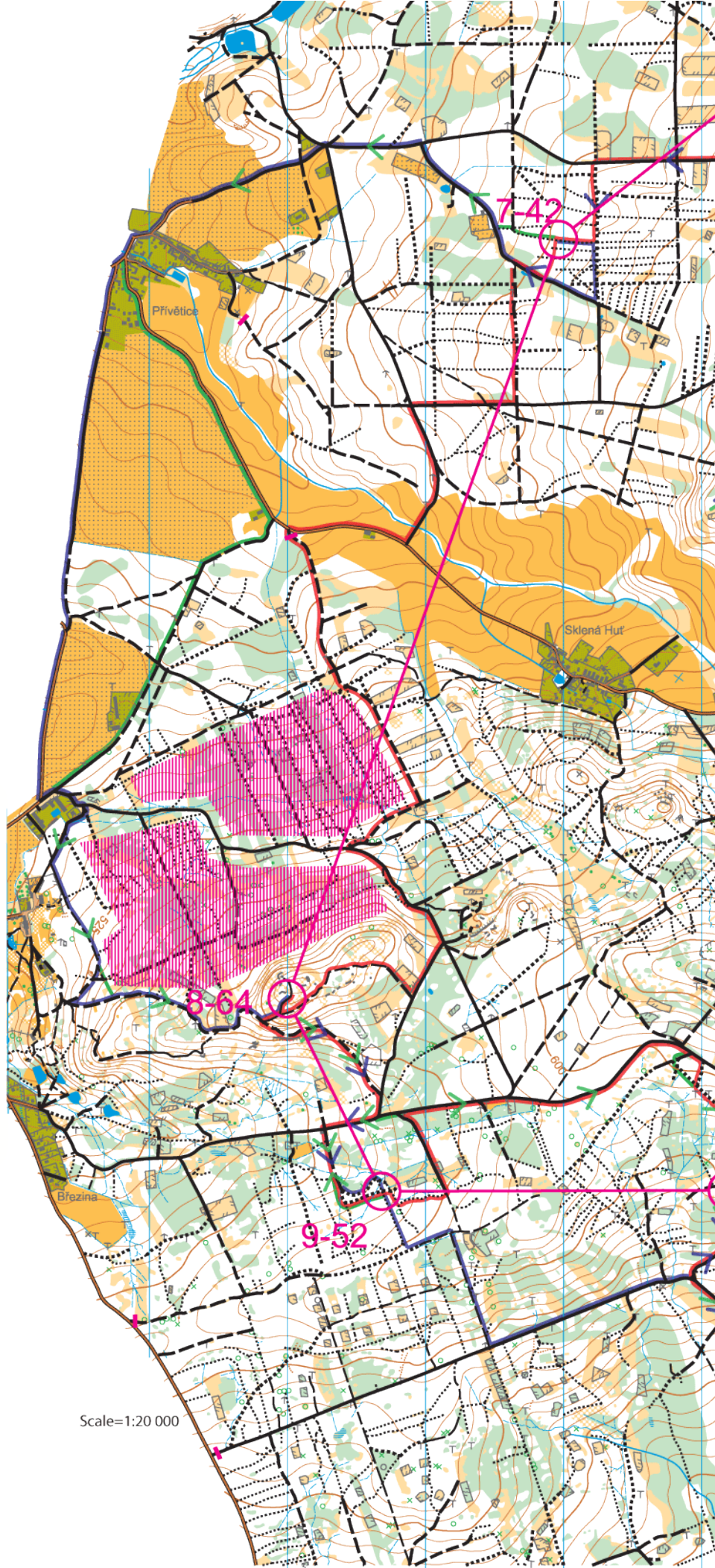
Day four took place in a completely different terrain with a very dense track network which forced the riders to keep constant map contact. Lots of roots on the ground made it difficult to read the map while riding the bike.

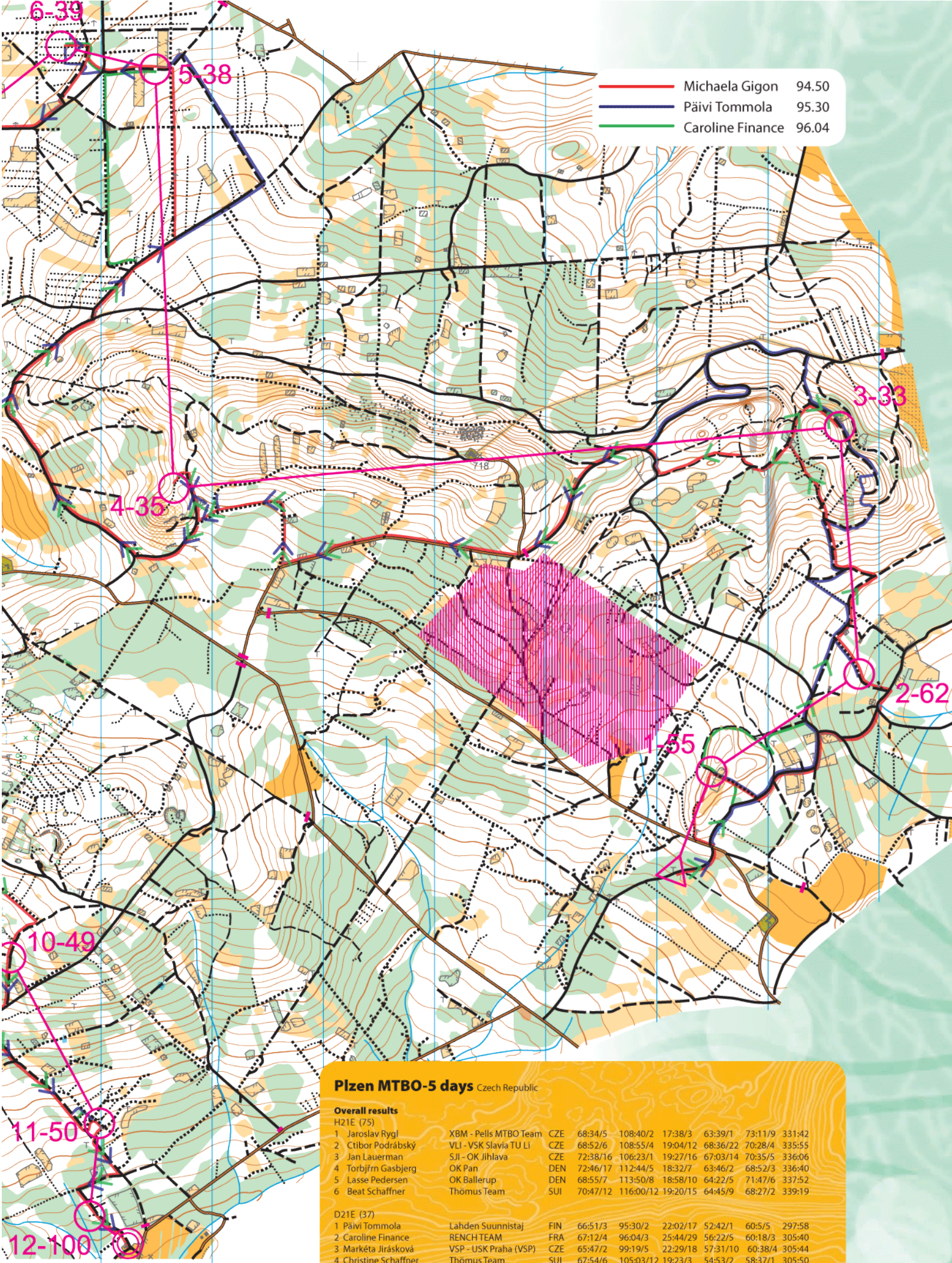
On the evening of day three a mass start O-Triathlon was organised. About 50 teams consisting of a swimmer, a rider and a runner took part. The swim section was certainly the hardest, especially as one of the controls that was filled with empty water bottles started sinking. Fortunately none of the competitors drowned in the fight for the punches. But also the bike and run sections were not to be underestimated as the controls were very close together.

Every evening at the prize-giving the yellow jersey for the overall leader in the Elite Classes was handed over to the new leader. On the first three days I was standing there with different men beside me each time. On day four I lost my SI-Chip in the forest and had to hand over the smelly shirt to Päivi Tommola (FIN) who was able to keep it till the end. Jaroslav Rygl (CZE) was her company. There was also a green jersey for the best sprinter; the person who had the fastest time from the last control to the finish. A less popular black jersey for the person with the biggest time loss to the leader in his category was handed over every night.

Apart from putting on high level competitions the organizers also managed to make a great film about the races with some funny characters that was shown on the last night in the beer tent. The 5-days race in Plzeň is arranged every other year, which means the next one will be in 2009.

Text: Michaela Gigon





Michaela Gigon	94.50
Päivi Tommola	95.30
Caroline Finance	96.04

Plzeň MTBO-5 days Czech Republic

Overall results

H21E (75)	
1 Jaroslav Rygl	XBM - Pellis MTBO Team CZE 68:34/5 108:40/2 17:38/3 63:39/1 73:11/9 331:42
2 Ctibor Podrábský	VLI - VSK Slavia TU LI CZE 68:52/6 108:55/4 19:04/12 68:36/22 70:28/4 335:55
3 Jan Lauerman	SJI - OK Jihlava CZE 72:38/16 106:23/1 19:27/16 67:03/14 70:35/5 336:06
4 Torbjørn Gasbjørg	OK Pan DEN 72:46/17 112:44/5 18:32/7 63:46/2 68:52/3 336:40
5 Lasse Pedersen	OK Ballerup DEN 68:55/7 113:50/8 18:58/10 64:22/5 71:47/6 337:52
6 Beat Schaffner	Thömus Team SUI 70:47/12 116:00/12 19:20/15 64:45/9 68:27/2 339:19

D21E (37)	
1 Päivi Tommola	Lahden Suunnistajat FIN 66:51/3 95:30/2 22:02/17 52:42/1 60:5/5 297:58
2 Caroline Finance	RENCH TEAM FRA 67:12/4 96:04/3 25:44/29 56:22/5 60:18/3 305:40
3 Markéta Jirásková	VSP - USK Praha (VSP) CZE 65:47/2 99:19/5 22:29/18 57:31/10 60:38/4 305:44
4 Christine Schaffner	Thömus Team SUI 67:54/6 105:03/12 19:23/3 54:53/2 58:37/1 305:50
5 Hana Bajtošová	USK Praha (VSP) CZE 68:37/7 104:14/11 19:16/2 57:08/9 62:32/7 311:47
6 Ingrid Stengard	IF Sibbo-Vargarna FIN 71:24/12 103:12/9 22:32/19 56:34/7 59:31/2 313:13