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Int. Inferno-Rennen Beginning of 79th International Inferno Races with cross-country skiing competition successful

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In almost Scandinavian conditions, the 79th International Inferno Races kicked off with the night cross-country competition on Wednesday, 18 January 2023. Instead of the usual middle of Mürren, the participants had to fight their way over a shorter but more challenging course around the Allmendhubel. Last year's winners Oliver Zurbrügg and Judith Graf won the race.

Unusual location today at the start of the 79th International Inferno Races in Mürren: For the first time ever, the cross-country race took place in the village on the Allmendhubel due to insufficient snow. The participants had to complete two laps of around 1300 metres around Mürren's local mountain. That was a little less than the total of three laps through Mürren, but they were still quite challenging: the course was peppered with two intense climbs and the altitude at almost 2000 metres above sea level was also not to be underestimated.

No surprises in the top ranks

With a winning time of just under six minutes, Oliver Zurbrügg from Lauterbrunnen won the race, as in previous years; closely followed by the German Finn Stütz and Michael Schmutz from Untersee. Judith Graf from Matten won the women's race by a wide margin. As a multiple winner, she did not come as a surprise either.

Reorganisation at short notice was a smooth success

The final decision for the races on the Allmendhubel was made last Sunday. The usual procedures had to be rethought quickly and the new course prepared. For the long-standing and experienced OC of the Inferno races, this rethinking was no problem; all adjustments worked smoothly. "The course has proven itself," Christoph Egger, OC President of the Inferno Races, takes stock, "in case of a repeat event, individual details of the course and the lighting would have to be optimised, but it turns out to be a good alternative. The extension to three laps would also be an option," Egger continues. The participants and their fan support were transported free of charge by cable car to the competition site with start and finish at the Panorama Restaurant Allmendhubel and back. The traditional mulled wine stand and the Allmendhubel team took care of the physical well-being of the spectators. The usual supporting programme as well as the prize-giving ceremony in the evening will take place as usual at the sports centre in Mürren.

Goal: Overall victory in the Inferno Super Combination

Tomorrow, Thursday morning, the XXL giant slalom will take place on Winteregg. Together with today's cross-country race and Saturday's downhill race, it will be part of the Inferno Super Combined. A total of 442 registered participants will fight for the overall victory in the three competitions.