



The fantastic INFERNO week concluded with the 74th race down from the Kleiner Schilthorn to Mürren. The 7.6 km course, covering a vertical distance of 1140 m, was completed by the day's winner, Flavio In Albon from Eggerberg, in just over 7 minutes. Altogether, 1663 people took part.

It was already obvious at the start of the week that the original course as far as Lauterbrunnen would not be possible, so the race ended in Mürren. Following the excellent weather conditions for the cross-country racing and the giant slalom, the organisers were hoping that the gods would smile on them for the downhill race on the Saturday, as well. This year's stable weather conditions are not completely shaking up the rankings like they did last year. Perfect visibility and the good surface led to high speeds and a winning time of 7:10.38. This was achieved by 22-year-old Flavio In Albon, who started as number 17. He brought the winner's trophy to the Upper Valais for the first time in 10 years. Having taken part in INFERNO many times, this year he won decisively, with a lead of more than 8 seconds over Manuel Zurbuchen (Unterseen) and Daniel Brawand (Grindelwald).

The five-times Inferno winner Marianne Rubi (34, Grindelwald) missed out on another victory in the women's race – she came second, four seconds behind Nadine Mächler from Central Switzerland. Meanwhile, Judith Graf (45, Matten) put in a solid performance, winning her category decisively and, by being ranked seventh overall, secured her sixth consecutive win in the Super Combined – her seventh overall.

Thomas Huggler (38) is doing well: having twice come third in the Combination, this time he only missed out on winning it by a hair's breadth, with a mere four points separating him from Mathias Salzmann from the Valais, who celebrated his fourth victory in the Super Combination. After the giant slalom on Thursday, Patrick Zürcher from the Simmental was in the lead, just in front of Huggler, but in the downhill he lost a precious eleven seconds to Huggler and came in third.

Some people took too many risks and went beyond their capabilities. Most of the falls were minor, apart from eight. Four skiers with shoulder fractures, two with injured knees, one with broken ribs and one with a head injury had to be taken to hospital by helicopter. One of these unlucky ones was able to be discharged from hospital on the same day.

The Inferno race will take place for the 75th time on 20 January 2018. The organisers have already come up with some new ideas to mark the anniversary: an extra team race will be introduced on the Friday, starting at the Obere Hübel and finishing at the ice rink at the Alpine Sports Centre in Mürren. This will be called the Sir Arnold Lunn Cup. In addition, all living INFERNO winners will be invited to an extra Legends race. The Combination cross-country race will also finish at the ice rink next year.

The announcement of a Devils Club has been greeted with keen interest. Head of the Organising Committee, Christoph Egger, explained: "We are setting up a Devils Club which will have a maximum of 666 members who will benefit from devilishly good promotions and special offers." Something to look forward to!