



Press release

Les Plans-sur-Bex, 15th March 2018

71st EDITION OF THE TROPHEES DU MUVERAN

The oldest ski mountaineering race in Switzerland will be held on 8th April in les *Plans-sur-Bex*. More than 1200 participants are expected to take the start.

AROUND THE GRAND MUVERAN

The *massif du Muveran* offers a fabulous varied alpine ground, with amazing landscapes and wild nature which highest peak is the *Grand Muveran* at 3051 meters. The *Trophées du Muveran* are a real alchemy mixing physical achievement and fascinating mountains. The *cabane Plan Névé*, the legendary *couloir du Pacheu*, *Derborence* and the *cabane Barraud* are the places and the names that built the solid reputation of the oldest ski mountaineering race in Switzerland.

A RACE INITIATED BY GENERAL GUISAN

The idea to offer a race open to patrol for military servicemen but as well to civils was brought up more than 70 years ago and the first edition of the *Trophées du Muveran* was held on 4th April 1948 with the *général Guisan* as the honorary committee leader. 15 patrols raced this first edition in the *massif du Muveran* and it took 5 hours and 31 minutes to the first team to reach the finish line.

Over the years, the organiser could count on a good participation, up to 1300 participants as well as the participation of some foreign teams. Two other courses were created: the *Trophée de Plan Névé* and in 1998 the *Super Trophée du Muveran*.

The organiser is not only delighted and proud that the *Trophées du Muveran* race was the first civil ski mountaineering race ever but also that the race was able to adapt to ski mountaineering discipline over the years. Despite a very light equipment which allows better performance, ski mountaineering still attracts a lot of enthusiasts, because they can be very close to the nature and can live their passion for the mountains. Such development throughout the years still make the *Trophées du Muveran* a very popular race today.

THE COURSES AND THE RACE

The *Trophées du Muveran* is divided into three races with a start and finish line in les *Plans-sur-Bex*:

- *Le Trophée du Muveran* – the reference
 - 28 km
 - positive difference in altitude: 2300 meters
 - maximum altitude: 2740 meters (top of the *couloir du Pacheu*)
 - minimum altitude: 1096 meters



- *Le Trophée de Plan Névé* – for popular and youth
 - 21 km
 - positive difference in altitude: 1300 meters
 - maximum altitude: 2335 meters (top of *Paneirosse*)
 - minimum altitude: 1096 meters
- *Le Super Trophée* – for experienced people
 - 32 km
 - positive difference in altitude: 2800 meters
 - maximum altitude: 2740 meters (top of the *couloir du Pacheu*)
 - minimum altitude: 1096 meters

Race starts are scheduled from 4am to 7.30am. Each team selects its start time according to its estimated total race time as well as its physical capacities.

For the *Trophée du Muveran* course, the *cabane de Plan Névé* check-point must be reached at 9.15am at the latest and *Derborence* check-point at 10am. After this deadline and for security reasons, teams shall be pulled out of the race and repatriated to *les Plans-sur-Bex*. Teams must reach the *cabane Barraud* before noon. This deadline can be adapted according to weather forecast.

The elite teams start for the *Trophée du Muveran* is scheduled at 7.30am and the winners are expected in the finish line area around 10.30am.

The *Trophée du Muveran* record, which was set in 2013, 2 hours and 48 minutes belongs to a Swiss team comprising Marcel Theux and Alan Tissières.

The *Trophée du Muveran* course is part of the Swiss ski mountaineering cup. Women and men can participate as teams of two in one of these categories: junior, espoir and senior. Non-elite patrols can race in the same course with teams of three in the “populaire” category.

Teams of two or three can participate in the other two courses, the *Trophée de Plan Névé* and the *Super Trophée* in the “populaire” category.

Equipment check (personal and team) is compulsory and teams must race as a group during the whole race. A technical briefing is held on Saturday in the church of *les Plans-sur-Bex* so that competitors can have all the latest details on the race.

As of today, more than 1000 competitors are registered for the 71st edition of the *Trophées du Muveran*. For some of them, this race is the final test under real before the *Patrouille des Glaciers*.

HIGHLIGHTS

For 2018 edition, the organiser can count on the participation of famous competitors, among the following for example: Marcel Theux and Steven Girard, who are the record holders and winners of the past two editions. Their participation confirms the interest and the never-ending



passion for ski mountaineering over the years.

A mountain bike Olympic medallist as well as multiple world champion, Christoph Sauser will as well take the start on 8th April. Mountain lover since he was a kid, he discovered by chance the race by riding his bike around *les Plans-sur-Bex* last year at the same period and decided to set a new challenge to himself by participating in *les Trophées du Muveran*. He will participate with Jean-Yves Vassalli and will enjoy this new experience on a brand new light equipment.

The couple Séverine and Nicolas Pont-Combe will participate in the *Super Trophée*, trying to reach the first podium step after a second-place last year for the 70th edition.

ORGANISATION

Under the presidency of Sylvain Fame, the organising committee as well as the 200 volunteers work hard in order to guarantee safety and make sure the race goes smoothly.

The courses are divided in five sectors with different check-points and four feeding zones. The start and finish line area is located on *les Plans-sur-Bex* main road and is surrounded by a race village and some entertainment.

A mountain lover and a well-trained organisation, who was rewarded in 2017 as the best Swiss cup organiser, for the fourth time in row, is looking forward welcoming athletes and guests on the 8th April.

For more information:

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