

1. The 1st Austria eXtreme Triathlon is long gone. What do you see when you look back?

A lot of work, really a lot. Plenty of bureaucracy, many contacts to public authorities and abundance of patience. The remuneration for all that is the international acknowledgment. We tried to implement in the early phase our philosophy „hard and simple“- and we could feel that spirit with all of the participants and their supporting team members. Finally we had a successful event with a lot of positive emotions and happy faces – it was a good deal of work and it perfectly payed off.

2. Almost every organizer faces various complications during organizing process. Was your race's way silky smooth or did you also have to solve problems?

We had a great team. Everybody knew what to do and where are the individual limits of responsibility of each team member in the organization. For sure, the closer the event came the more tension came up, but in the end we handled it in a very professional way. Our philosophy was: " Strength lies in calmness". It was a great and very positive experience for all of us.

3. Which part of the race was most emotional for you (or/and your team)?

It already started with the briefing of the athletes. We could feel the tension of everybody. At the day of the competition it was amazing how early the athletes arrived with their supporting team members. Altogether we went to the starting line accompanied by the famous „Ghost walker“ of Graz – some, for sure, felt a bit queasy. But after 52 minutes the first athlete already stepped out of the water – all of us were positively surprised and really happy passing the first milestone. The first meters of the running course led the athletes over the dam of the Soelk creek and showed them a breathtaking scenery of the surrounding. It was so impressive when the athletes were reaching the finishing line one after the other – they altogether gave their very best. We received so positive feedback from the athletes directly after their passing of the finishing line – this was really the most valuable present for us.

4. This year there were 50 participants in the race. Are you wondering about opening the race for more triathletes?

Assuming that our main sponsor „Helvetia" will continue in 2016, we are planning to extend the number of participants up to 125. To answer your question „why only 125 participants“ - well this is simple to explain – we want to improve the organization on a stable base and in parallel feel ourself responsible for the athletes.

5. There was a big positive feedback on the race's routes. Are you planning to stay on the same course also next year?

In general yes. The bike route will be slightly different due to a road work this year in the area of Teigitschgraben. The running trail will slightly be modified because of the positive input of some local farmers.

6. I am asking about next year's race, but I forgot to ask important question - are you planning to continue organizing Austria eXtreme Triathlon?

The planning of the Austria eXtreme Triathlon 2016 already started the day after this years competition. We hope to get the confirmation from all involved authorities and the big very professional support from the voluntary fire brigades along the river Mur and in the Soelk valley again for the 2016 event, not to forget the important and perfect collaboration with the operator „Planai Bahnen" of the cable car up the Dachstein mountain.

7. When races are successful, and obviously Austria eXtreme is; they usually expand - more days, more races, more programme.. Are you thinking about any of these?

The Austria eXtreme will not become a mass event in the future. Our philosophy is safety first. That's the reason for limitation of participants. We are planning to raffle participants in the future as we did this year. Only our main sponsor has the right to nominate one athlete.

8. What do you think was your best organizing achievement and on the other hand, what do you think needs more of your organizing attention?

Overall we are very satisfied with the 2015 event. A great team, a fantastic team spirit and an extraordinary team assignment. For 2016 one of our main focuses is to make it more transparent. We want to show who is where at wich time of the race. We would like to track the position of every participant during the competition and make it visible to everybody who is interested in. Right now, we are looking for a partner who is capable covering this request.

9. Was there any particular participant's story that touched your heart?

There are many stories touching our heart, but every participant was eXtremely happy seeing their own coach at the Silberkarklamm accompanying the athlete up to the finishing line. This was somehow an interim finishing line for everybody and gave a lot of energy to the athlete for the last phase of the competition. It is our dedicated goal to transform the lone warrior triathlete into a team player again.

10. Where would you like to see Austria eXtreme Triathlon in, let's say, 10 years?

Up to now, we don't want to look that far in the future. For us it's important for the future to create boundary conditions which cause additional positive emotions. It is our goal, that each checkpoint of the competition will be a very positive experience for the athlete and will be kept in mind for a life long period.