



8th Glacier 3000 Run: women's course record, new record number of participants, and a Swiss winner for the first time.

**Les Diablerets, August 10, 2015. The weather played along, a new Women's course record was set and Swiss winner in the Men's category for the first time. The event organisers were very pleased about the new record number of participants.**

Already during her first Glacier 3000 Run, the long distance mountain running world champion Martina Strähl set a new course record. The gal from Oekingen beat the existing course record, held by Daniela Gassmann Bahr from 2013, by almost 6 minutes. She completed the 26 kilometre stretch, including the altitude gain of 1'950 metres, in 2:33,33. Strähl only used videos and a map of the course to prepare herself for the run. „It's a great course, especially the glacier passage was impressive“, she said. At that point in the race, she was already certain she would win. For the 28-year old Martina Strähl, the Glacier 3000 Run was also a test for the Berlin Marathon, in which she will be competing on September 27th.

Daniela Gassmann Bahr from Galgenen was forced to give the lead to another runner this year. She needed 2:46,40 to complete the mountain run. „I knew that I would have no chance against Martina in a normal run“, she said after the race. „I believe now is simply the time for the next generation“, said the repeated winner of the race. She enjoyed the race anyway.

In the Men's, it looked like the Kenyan Robert Panin Surum would win the race for quite some time. Like Strähl, he too was participating in the Glacier 3000 Run for the first time. Up until Oldenegg, the African, running for the Austrian club run2gether, was in the lead and then he dropped back and ended up in third place. The two Swiss runners, Philipp Feuz (Ringgenberg) and Ralf Birchmeier (Buchs) were already in position behind Surum. At Martisberg they overtook Surum and competed in an exciting head-to-head race. In the end, the 32-year old Feuz, crossed the finish line 6 seconds before Birchmeier. This was the first time a Swiss runner won the Men's category. „I am incredibly happy about winning this race“, says Feuz, „I felt good and planned on finishing in the top five“, he said.

The event organisers of the 8th Glacier 3000 Run were not only happy about the new record of participants. Even the weather was better than expected. Although there was a lot of humidity in the air, even at 2000 meters, there were no thunderstorms. For the runners, such warm temperatures were not easy to deal with. However, the race course was in excellent condition and the Saanenland and glacier showed themselves from their best side under clear blue skies.

For the fourth year now, Nordic Walkers have been participating as well. In the afternoon, which has already become a tradition by now, 130 kids participated in the Gstaad Kids Run on the Gstaad Promenade. 790 runners signed up for the Glacier 3000 Run and 741 of those could qualify themselves. „We can look back at a successful event and are very pleased with the record number of participants“, says Claudia von Siebenthal, Marketing & Sales Manager of Glacier 3000. „The new starting point by the ice rink was a good idea. We are really looking forward to our 10-year anniversary in 2017, which we will be celebrating with a marathon course.“ That will be a completely new and interesting running challenge at the Glacier 3000 Run.

## **Rankings**

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