



LOVE RIDE SWITZERLAND COMMITTEE

Media release for today's Love Ride 31 - Sunday, May 7, 2023, 6 p.m.

A heart moves!

On Sunday, May 7, 2023, shortly after a beautiful sunrise, the gates of the Dübendorf airfield opened for the 31st Love Ride, the largest biker benefit event to support people with muscular disease and impairments. The event received musical support from Marc Storace with his band, Marc Amacher, the Kumpelding and other great Swiss artists. A spectacular wheelchair skate show and an energetic powerchair field hockey tournament marked sporting highlights. Punctually at 11.00 am, accompanied by the new anthem "Love Moves", the unique ride-out of muscular and impaired people started, together with about 3'500 motorcycles, sidecars and trikes.

Thanks to all trike and sidecar riders

Fortunately, the trike and sidecar riders did not let themselves be put off by bad weather forecasts, and so again this year almost all the 280 visitors with a muscular disease or impairment who wanted were able to go on the approximately 60-kilometer ride. For many of those affected, most of whom are in wheelchairs and have restricted mobility, this ride through the Zurich Unterland and Oberland is the highlight of the entire event, as they can ride along in a sidecar or on a trike without having to book in advance or have their own equipment, and thus forget everyday life and restrictions on their mobility for a moment.

Eagle

Representing all people with a muscular disease or impairment, this year Leonardo Rago invited as Love Ride Eagle and ambassador to this day of solidarity. Due to his disease muscular dystrophy Duchenne, he is wheelchair-bound and dependent on help in everyday life. The lively 14-year-old from Basel, who participated in the Love Ride for the first time and, accompanied by his mother, was allowed to ride along in the front trike on the ride-out, returned from the ride totally enthusiastic and exuberantly happy about this experience.

Visitors and donations

More than 3,500 motorcycles and over 6,000 visitors found their way to the Dübendorf airfield this year. Besides the ride-out and the experience at the Love Ride, collecting donations is also part of the Love Ride. Robert van der Ploeg (Treasury Department in the Love Ride Committee): "According to initial calculations, the total amount raised this time should be more than 200,000 Swiss francs, which is a great result."



Ride-Out

The centerpiece of the event remains the approximately 60 km ride through the Zurich countryside, which starts at 11 a.m. and offers people with disabilities the unique opportunity to ride along in a sidecar or on a trike without pre-registration or their own equipment, thus forgetting everyday life and mobility restrictions for a moment. Ride-alongs in sidecars and trikes are therefore also very welcome this year.

Sad incident

Unfortunately, a collision between a sidecar and a car occurred during the ride-out. Now, nothing more can be said about the course of the accident and the injured persons than has already become known. Bruno Leutwyler, Chairman of Love Ride Switzerland: "The Love Ride is all about putting a smile on the faces of people who have limited mobility. An accident like the one that happened today is infinitely tragic and overshadows the event. We sincerely wish the injured a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with them."

Love Ride 32

The 32nd edition of the Love Ride will take place next year on May 5, 2024 – as usual on the first Sunday in May.

Love Ride Online

<https://loveride.ch/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LoveRideSwitzerland>

https://www.instagram.com/love_ride_switzerland

https://www.youtube.com/@loverideCH_official/

Pictures of the Love Ride are freely available under indication of the source ("Love Ride Switzerland/Photographer") at: <https://loveride.ch/bildergalerien/>

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