

TOUR DU LEMAN A L'AVIRON

THE TOUR DU LEMAN A L'AVIRON, AN OUTSTANDING CHALLENGE

The Tour du Léman à l'Aviron rowing racing event is an international competition of endurance organised at the end of September by the rowing section of the Société Nautique de Geneve (SNG). The starting command is given on Saturday morning at eight o'clock from the north pier of Port Noir. The first Tour du Lac took place in 1972, year of the centennials of the organising club. Thanks to in particular the loyalty of its participants coming mainly from Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy but also from Great-Britain, the Netherlands, Hungary, Russia and even from the United States of America, the appreciation it has generated, the beauty of the landscape and the enthusiasm of all the volunteers participating in the organisation, the Tour du Léman à l'Aviron, which was originally intended as a single event, has become an international annual event, that some have not hesitated to qualify as « *Königin der Regatten* », well appreciated by long distance rowing lovers. Some have participated more than ten times, others fifteen and one competitor even more than twenty times.

The Tour du Léman à l'Aviron consists in rowing all the way round the Lake of Geneva clockwise non stop and without extraneous assistance, departing from, and returning to Geneva after having passed by all the control marks. It is governed by the downloadable rules, the purpose of which is to ensure fair and equitable racing conditions.

This famous competition represents, **with its 160 km course, the longest non-stop rowing event in the world, taking place on a lake**. Besides, has it not been qualified by certain specialists of the "*heimliche Weltmeisterschaft*" of long distance regattas? The duration of the race varies according to weather conditions, the equipment of the boat and the level of the crewmembers **between 12 and 17 hours**. The record of the Tour has been set by the team of *RGM RC Hamm/Karlsruher Rheinklub Alemannia/Mainzer RV/Stuttgart-Cannstatter RC* at 11 hours 43 minutes and 30 seconds in 2011, as for the record of a sweep boat team it is held by *Ludwigshafener Ruderverein v. 1878/Mulheimer Ruderverein* in 12 hours and 53 minutes, in the Women Elite Category the record is held by *Dresdner Ruder-Club 1902 e. V. (Frauenpower)* in 14 hours and 55 seconds; the best time in the Masters category has been achieved by *RC Hamm/RC Nürtingen/Stuttgart-Cannstatter RC/Ulmer RC Donau* 12 hours 26 minutes et 31 seconds, the one for a Mixed Crew by *RGM Karlsruher Ruder-Verein Wiking v. 1879 e. V/Mainzer Ruder-Verein e.V.* in 12 hours 11 minutes and 45 seconds.

The Tour is a real human challenge because, beyond the physical performance, each crew must show solidarity and resistance to be able to reach its objectives.

This event is open only to rowing boats capable of facing the weather conditions of the Lake of Geneva, such as wind and waves, and which are intended for **four rowers and a coxswain**, equipped either for sweep oars or sculling oars. As a rule, the participants use "*yolettes*". During the Tour, the five crewmembers can alternatively row and cox.

The participants are divided into **various classes**: Men Elite and Women Elite, Masters (the average age of the team is at least 40 and the youngest member must have reached the age of 35 at least the year preceding the Tour), Mixed (crew in which at least two members are women) and according to entries, novices (crew with at least 4 rowers who have already participated in a maximum of three 3 Tours, excluding the year of the Tour in consideration) Sweep Boats, Juniors (the youngest crew member must have reached the age of 16 before or on the date of the Tour and the oldest one must not have attained the age of 19 during the year of the Tour). Composite crews made of members from various clubs are eligible to compete.

To participate to this event, the entry form must be accurately filled out and signed and must be received by the organiser before August 31 of the year of the Tour. In addition, each crew shall have paid its entry fee and conveyed the Declaration Waiver duly signed by each competitor at the latest the evening before the start of the race.

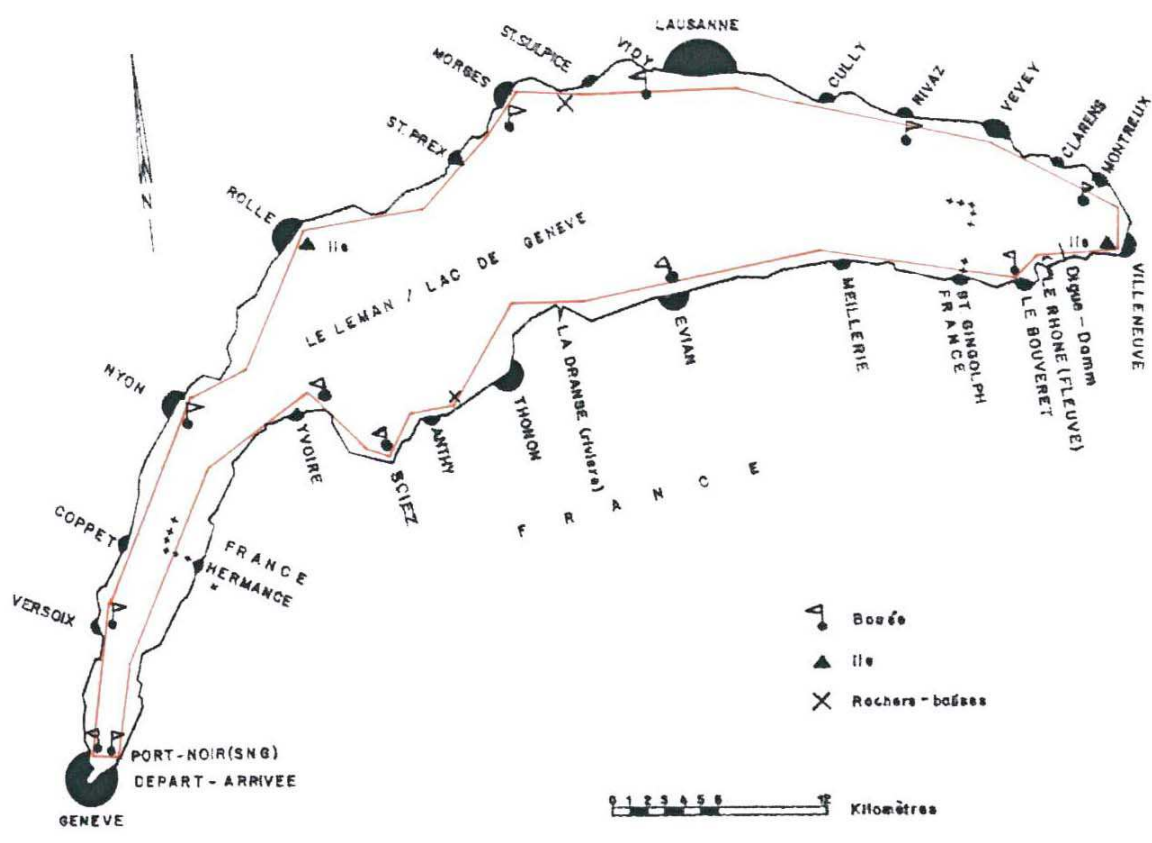
Because of the danger linked to this event and the physical efforts required to perform the Tour, the participants must, before being authorised to start the race, imperatively be able to swim at least 500 m, have reached the age of 16, be in good physical condition, present no counter-indications to the rowing activity on a competitive level, have undergone the type of training which is compatible with the requirements of the Tour and have the proper safety equipment such as life jackets, scoops etc. as well as sufficient food and drinks and eventually, the necessary visas to be authorised to enter the territories of the Swiss Confederation and/or the French Republic.

For safety reasons and though this shall be the individual duty of each participant, the organiser monitors, as far as possible, the teams on water with a fleet of motor boats and on land by a bus service. Moreover, the course is buoyed with more than ten control marks that each team must reach and where each passage is registered. Finally and for security reasons, it is specified that, under penalty of being excluded from the race, the control mark of Lausanne-Vidy (approx. 50 km) must be reached within less than six hours and thirty minutes and the control mark of Le Bouveret (approx. 85 km) in less than nine hours and with a time difference not exceeding three hours with the first team.

For those participants who so desire, dormitories can be put at their disposal in the shelters of the civil defence for the nights of Friday and Saturday.

After the prize giving ceremony, this exceptional sporting event ends on Sunday at noon around a convivial dinner during which the participants happy to have reached their objective share their experience and emotions and, as if bitten by the rowing bug, can't await for the next edition of the Tour.

Experiment this extraordinarily challenging event and don't hesitate to register for the next edition of the Tour !



The Crews along the UN premises

Photo A. Danon

45th TOUR DU LEMAN A L'AVIRON
23/24 September 2017

We are pleased to invite you to participate to the 45 th Tour du Léman à l'Aviron, international rowing competition of endurance (12 to 17 hours of effort in sometimes choppy waters).	
Date of the Event:	23/24 September 2017.
Participants Welcoming:	22 September 2017, from 5:00 pm.
Location:	Société Nautique de Genève, Port-Noir, Geneva, Switzerland.
Organisation:	Rowing Section of Société Nautique de Genève.
Start of the Tour:	Saturday, 23 September 2017 at 8:00 a.m.
Course: (Art. 6 Rules of Racing)	160 km on Lake Geneva, without stops or extraneous help, from Geneva to Geneva following the Swiss coast first and then the French coast.
Types of boats: (Art. 4 Rules of Racing)	Coxed four or quad capable of surviving weather conditions on Lake Geneva.
Participation:	Limited to 25 crews.
Eligibility to compete: (Art. 4 Rules of Racing)	Any sportsmen having reached the age of 16, physically, psychologically and technically trained to meet the requirements of the Tour, able to swim at least 500 meters, in good health, presenting no counter-indications to the rowing activity on a competition level. Composite crews are eligible. In order to be eligible each competitor who is member of a rowing club affiliated to the Swiss Rowing Federation (FSSA) shall present prior to the start a valid and updated racing licence; otherwise he will be banned from the start.
Classes: (Art. 3 Rules of Racing)	<u>Men Elite:</u> the youngest crewmember has reached the age of 19 before or during the year of the Tour; <u>Women Elite:</u> the youngest crewmember has reached the age of 19 before or during the year of the Tour; <u>Masters:</u> crew in which the average age is at least 40 and the youngest member shall have reached the age of 35 the year preceding the Tour; <u>Mixed Crew:</u> crew in which at least two members shall be women. <u>Novices:</u> crew with at least four (4) rowers who have already participated in a maximum of three (3) Tours, excluding this year's Tour. <u>Juniors:</u> crew in which the oldest member does not attain the age of 19 during the year of the Tour and the youngest has reached the age of 16 before or on the date of the Tour.
Registration: (Art. 2 Rules of Racing)	Société Nautique de Genève, (e-mail, fax or mail) not later than 31st August 2017.
Entry Fee:	CHF 300.- /Euro 280.- per crew, to be paid entirely not later than 9:00 pm on Friday 22 September 2017. This fee includes: - Accommodation in dormitories from 22 to 25 September 2017 until 10:00 am; - Welcome cocktail on Friday evening; - Dinner after finishing the Tour; - Closing lunch on Sunday at noon; - Prizes and souvenirs.
Compulsory Equipment: (Art. 5 Rules of Racing)	Only competitors (rowers and coxswains) with their own lifejackets (non self inflating), bailer and/or pump, sufficient food and drinkable water, valid ID papers, insurance (third party liability, accident), will be authorised to start the Tour. The organizer does not, in principle, lend boats or oars. The organizer lends the visual sign devices, flares and boat numbers against a guarantee of CHF 50.-.
Race Instructions:	In addition to the Rules of Racing the organiser may elect to give race instructions at any time.
Prize Giving Ceremony: (Art. 19 Rules of Racing)	The Prize Giving Ceremony shall take place at the Clubhouse of Société Nautique de Genève on Sunday, 24 September from 11:30 am. Under no circumstances, shall prizes be sent to the addresses of the teams.
Further Information:	Société Nautique de Genève Phone : + 41 22 707 05 00, Fax : + 41 22 707 05 09

	E-mail : admin@nautique.org Web site: www.nautique.org
Address:	Société Nautique de Genève Port-Noir CH-1223 Cologny, Switzerland



TOUR DU LEMAN A L'AVIRON

RECORD PAR CATEGORIE

	Equipages	Arrivée
Record 2011 Toute Catégorie	RC HAMM/KARLSRUHER RHEINKLUB ALEMANNIA/ MAINZER RV/STUTTGART-CANNSTATTER RC Jet d'Eau Jochen Domscheit, Matthias Auer, Markus Neumann, Henning Osthoff, Christian Maus	11h 43m 30s
Record 2004 Elite Féminine	DRESDNER RUDER-CLUB 1902 E. V. (Frauenpower) Fleischhauer L. (F), Buch S. (F), Thiele A.-K. (F), Emmerich M. (F), Waleska P. (F).	14h 00m 55s
Record 2001 Pointe	RGM LUDWIGSHAFENENER RUDERVEREIN VON 1878/MÜLHEIMER WASSERSPORT Matthias Decker, Michael Decker, Andreas Orth, Reinhard Schulz und Harald Sturm	12h 53m 00s
Record 2016 Masters/Maîtres	RC HAMM/RC NÜRTINGEN/STUTTGART-CANNSTATTER RC/ÜLMER RC DONAU Matthias Auer, Olaf Behrend, Jochen Betten, Jörn Michel, Henning Osthoff	12h 26m 31s
Record 2006 Mixte	RGM KARLSRUHER RV WIKING/MAINZER RV Ludwig I. (F), Roller Sybille (F), Auer Matthias, Behrend Olaf, Neumann Markus	12h 11m 45s
Record 2011 Novices	HEIDELBERG RUDERKLUB VON 1872 E.V. Jens Hottendorf, Thomas Koch, Christopher Herpel, Jonas Tesarz, Alexander Schuster	12h 26m 40s



RC HAMM/KARLSRUHER RHEINKLUB ALEMANNIA/ MAINZER RV/STUTTGART-CANNSTATTER

Markus Neumann, Christian Maus, Matthias Auer, Henning Osthoff, Jochen Domscheit
Record 2011 Toute catégorie

Photo G. Roller



Organisation Société Nautique de Genève