



profil

Modern mobility for commuters

Marathon GT and
four seasons tire GT 365



Equipped for the extra energy

New tire range in performance DD meets the challenges of the e-MTB ... [Page 4](#)

Schwalbe at the Paralympics

Athletes from different countries will ride Schwalbe tubeless tires with their name on it ... [Page 11](#)



The info flag and puncture protection level hangers (left) inform about the now seven protection levels.

Update for the Schwalbe shop

Schwalbe is launching new advertising material for its shop system at Eurobike 2016 in Germany. The tried-and-tested 'hardware' remains the same, but there is new content and a new design for the labelling, information flags and screen.

Globally, more than 4.000 Schwalbe shop systems are in use – from Estonia to Australia, Japan to Indonesia, in the Alps, on the island of Majorca, or in Amsterdam.

The shop provides all the information that a customer could possibly need about Schwalbe tires. No need to ask questions. The customers can look at and touch everything they want to at their own pace or watch videos on the screen. The shop owner is happy because he can sell more tires with less staff.

Schwalbe provides a free update package for the shop each year in autumn. It contains the new labelling sets which match

the new stylish titanium colour packaging design.

Now 7 puncture protection levels

Also new is the change from 6 to 7 puncture protection levels prompted by the introduction of the Marathon GT with the new DualGuard (please read more on page 6). The now 7 levels are illustrated in a clearly arranged style on the new information flags and puncture protection level hangers (dimensions 10 x 73 centimeter).

Further update: A new presentation for the screen in which commuting and e-bike tires

will be featured. "We will show you all our latest innovations at Eurobike", says Philipp Hawle from Schwalbe Marketing. "The shop proves that a high-quality, descriptive tire presentation can be a factor for success."

The Schwalbe shop system offers modules of varying sizes and equipment which means that very individualized variations can be realized. Schwalbe provides the complete sales price in goods – when the goods have been sold, the shop is paid for.

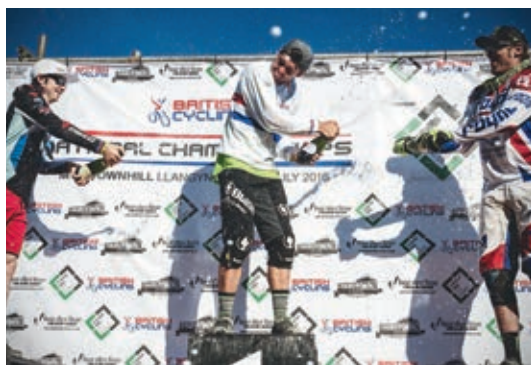
Please note: Not all the marketing materials are available in all countries. For further information, please contact your local distribution partner.



Eurobike 2016, Friedrichshafen, Germany,
August 31 – September 4, 2016, www.eurobike-show.de
Schwalbe Exhibition Stand: Hall A5, Stand 300

Seven national champions on Schwalbe tires

■ On July 17, seven national MTB champions won their individual titles on Schwalbe tires. In the British downhill championships, Greg Williamson (photo) from the Cube Global Squad Team managed to outrace the competition on Magic Mary and Procore. The 44-year-old Sabine Spitz took her 13th German championship overall in cross-country 15 years after her first German championship victory. In Switzerland Jolanda Neff from the Stöckli Pro Team was the winner and in Austria, it was Lisi Osl from the Ghost Factory Team, both in cross-country. Both of her Ghost teammates, Anne Terpstra from the Netherlands and Alexandra Engen from Sweden, won in their respective home countries and both in cross-country. And Stefan Garlicki, Solid-Reverse Factory Racing, secured the national downhill crown in South Africa.



Dear Schwalbe Partners,

Whoever has felt the built-in tailwind of an e-bike will not want to go without it ever again. And so the enthusiasm for e-bikes – and now also increasingly e-mountain bikes – is ensuring a good mood among retailers. In order to be able to make full use of these bikes' potential, your customers need the right tires. You will find them on page 4.

City cycling is also becoming more and more popular even though the cycling infrastructure in many of the urban centers is not keeping pace. It is especially for these cyclists that we have developed the new Marathon GT. And for those who just couldn't care less how bad the weather is, we are launching our new all-year tire Marathon GT 365.

This means that you are excellently equipped to meet all the challenges that even the worst weather can throw at your customers. We wish you a successful late season!

Best regards

Frank Bohle

Tubeless trend on the Tour Transalp



One thing was certain during the 14th annual Tour Transalp: the number of tubeless riders has grown remarkably. Even the Tour Team, the official team of the organizer, TOUR magazine, was on the go with tubeless Schwalbe Pro One. "The good performance and a high resistance to flat tires – especially as regards the risk of a ruptured tube – are the best arguments for going tubeless. Even the

Tour Team was won over by the idea," says Felix Schäfermeier from Schwalbe Race Support (photo), who provided emergency help without bureaucracy just like every year. The Tour Transalp is the most spectacular open race in Europe. In seven daily stages, 1,200 cyclists travel through the Alps. This year, the route went from Imst in Austria to Italy's Lake Garda – over a total of 897 kilometers, 19,446 meters of cumulative elevation and 22 breathtaking mountain passes.



Lugano with new retro-label

■ No matter whether on a classic racing bike, an urban bike or a fixie: the Schwalbe Lugano is a popular entry level tire with a reliable silica compound and a K-Guard. With its beige skin sidewall and the new classic label it is also a perfect match for a stylish bike. Available in 23 and 25 millimeters width.

■ Masthead

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Well equipped for the extra energy

The e-mountain bike is on a fast and steep trajectory right to the very top, and that's not just on the mountain, but also on the market! Schwalbe will be presenting the Nobby Nic and Smart Sam models at Eurobike in a new "Performance Double Defense" version developed specifically for the e-MTB.

Experience, speed, fun – and a little bit extra from all of them: The motorized assistance allows completely new goals to be achieved. There are so many reasons to make the switch to e-MTB, especially for less experienced riders. Getting to the top without taking the cable car; taking a cycling tour with your partner, the kids or with friends who all have different levels of fitness. Anyone who has felt the electric wind at their back will not want to go without it ever again. E-MTB is not only for these riders. The e-bike is increasingly being discovered by more ambitious mountain bikers. They enjoy the fun provided by the extra push out on the trail, and the new "uphill flow".

The strong mechanical forces that this puts on the tires means that they need to be more robust. The tires are really pushed to their limit. "Normal MTB tires can only deal with this extra energy to a certain extent", says Markus Hachmeyer, Schwalbe Senior Product Manager. In order to meet this challenge, Schwalbe is now launching two MTB models Nobby Nic and the Smart Sam in the new "Performance Double Defense" version.

The stronger forces take their toll on the material. The bikes are far heavier and have a massive amount of torque. In order to be able to make any use of the bikes' potential, it requires a lot more grip. An improved durability is also required in order to be able to withstand the increased stresses. The new, high-quality silica compound has been developed to cope with extreme stresses, and can meet both these requirements as a result.

Two additional layers of fabric – a SnakeSkin from bead to bead as well as a further RaceGuard under the tread – ensure the significantly increased stability, as well as providing the required improvement in puncture protection. These layers support the entire structure and offer increased protection for the side walls of the tires against puncturing.

Smart Sam: Completely renewed and in Performance DD

Schwalbe gives the all-rounder Smart Sam a complete make-over. It is now more aggressive and better suited to riding off-road than its predecessor and has more grip on the lateral studs. "A lot of riders wanted this robust off-road character, up to now its look came across as being a bit too tame for them", says Markus Hachmeyer.

With the new Smart Sam, e-mountain bikers are guaranteed a top-quality e-mountain bike tire: it was certified in accordance with the ECE-R75 mark of conformity for fast e-bikes in the Performance Double Defense version and also Smart Sam Plus with GreenGuard version.

A perfect pair: e-MTB and 27.5+

That's perfect: The trend towards wider tires and the 27.5+ size have come along just at the right time for the e-MTB. "The bikes often have a thicker frame and also have to carry a motor and battery. This means that the plus tires are not only a perfect match for the e-MTB in terms of the look,



Performance DD: All around SnakeSkin and RaceGuard under the tread.



Nobby Nic in Performance DD with new silica compound.



Smart Sam with a new profile design, also available in Performance DD.

Photo: Markus Greber



but also technically”, says Markus Hachmeyer. Nobby Nic’s new optional Apex versions offer even greater stability for the 27.5+ tires (sizes: 65-584, 70-584, 75-584). The tires with the reinforced bead area are 65 percent more resistant against snake bites compared to the normal version.

On the safe side with the ECE mark of conformity

Tires that are mounted on fast e-bikes (up to 45 km/h)

must be certified with the ECE-R75 mark of conformity (Europe). At Schwalbe this applies for all MTB tires in the Performance DD design version, as well as certain other models distinguishable by their e-bike Ready 50 label. These tires that are approved for faster e-bikes are naturally also a good choice for riders of normal e-MTBs up to 25 km/h. Markus Hachmeyer: “They should also pay attention to ensure that the tires can withstand the increased stresses. Therefore with ECE-R75, all e-MTB riders are on the safe side!”

To make correct use of the potential offered by e-MTBs, it is essential that tires can withstand the extra energy generated by them. Schwalbe offers a wide array of products for e-MTBs.

An overview of Schwalbe tires for the e-MTB

Nobby Nic	Smart Sam	Smart Sam Plus	Marathon Plus MTB	Super Moto-X
60-559 26 x 2.35 Performance DD	57-584 27.5 x 2.25 Performance DD	57-559 26 x 2.25 GreenGuard	54-559 26 x 2.10 SmartGuard	62-584 27.5 x 2.40 GreenGuard
60-584 27.5 x 2.35 Performance DD	65-584 27.5 x 2.60 Performance DD	57-584 27.5 x 2.25 GreenGuard	57-559 26 x 2.25 SmartGuard	70-584 27.5 x 2.80 RaceGuard
60-622 29 x 2.35 Performance DD	57-622 29 x 2.25 Performance DD	54-622 29 x 2.10 GreenGuard	54-584 27.5 x 2.10 SmartGuard	
60-584 27.5 x 2.35 Evolution Line		57-622 29 x 2.25 GreenGuard	57-584 27.5 x 2.25 SmartGuard	
			54-622 29 x 2.10 SmartGuard	

All the tires carry the ECE-R75 mark of conformity for fast e-bikes.

The quick and reliable solution to get from A to B

The Marathon GT will be launched to market in 2017.
Just like the bicycle, it stands for contemporary mobility.
The new Marathon GT is just as smart as the way city cyclists
and frequent bikers ride their bicycles.

The bicycle boom in cities continues to gather pace. More and more people are (re)discovering the bicycle as a mode of transport. It is exactly for these city cyclists and commuters that Schwalbe is launching the Marathon GT. They want a quick, easy and modern tire that takes them from A to B quickly and reliably without any punctures. The new Marathon GT embodies all these things. With its dynamic tread design and succinct diamond layer, it rolls lightly and safely and also makes a visual impression on a stylish city bike or a sporty urban bike.

The new Marathon trio

Schwalbe has positioned the Marathon GT exactly in the middle between the classic Marathon and the Marathon Plus.

All three Marathon models are equipped with the particularly durable endurance compound and anti-aging side walls. The differences are in the puncture protection, the weight, the rolling characteristics, as well as the price. They vary according to the preferences of the cyclist:

The typical Marathon Plus cyclist places a great deal of importance on puncture protection – whether in everyday life, while travelling or during day trips. The cyclist wants maximum reliability and wants to have nothing more to do than pump the tires up every now and then. They don't have to do anything else because punctures are so unlikely. Thanks to its 5-mm-thick and patented SmartGuard, the Marathon Plus rolls on the highest puncture protection level that exists for bicycle tires. Despite this, the "flat-less" tire rolls lighter than any other tire with such a substantial puncture guard.

The classic Marathon on the other hand is all about solid brand quality at a reasonable price. Those who ride on Marathon tires already know that it is an all-round complete package in terms of durability, puncture-protection and light rolling. The 3-mm-thick GreenGuard, puncture protection level 5, is the perfect solution on day trips and for everyday use.

The Marathon GT is in the middle range of the Marathon trio when it comes to both its technical specifications and price. In order to achieve a high, light-rolling puncture protection, Schwalbe developed an innovative "double puncture protection" system consisting of two components – the DualGuard.



The new Marathon GT for commuters and city cyclists.

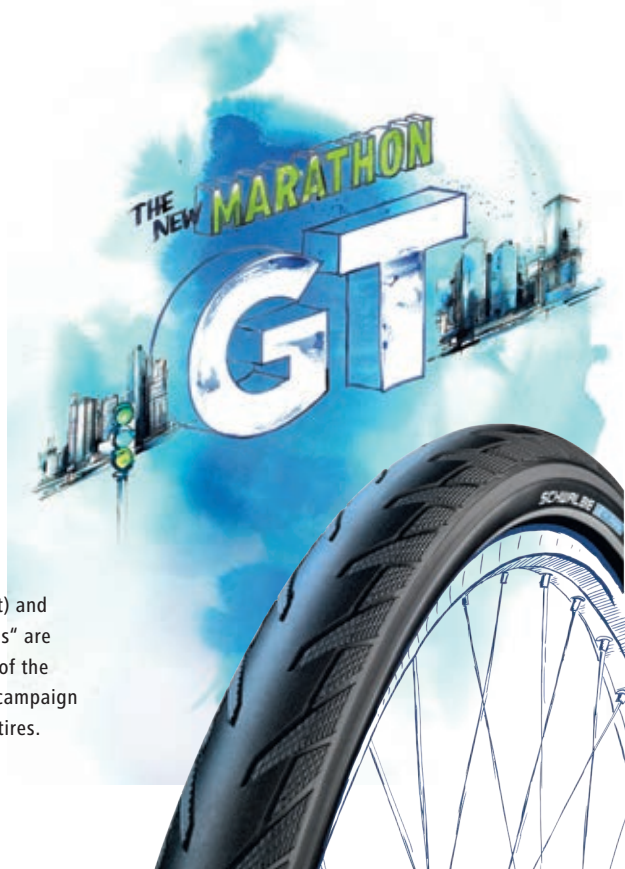


The new Marathon GT 365, the all-year marathon.



Marathon GT (photo)
and GT 365: Modern
mobility for commuters.

„Urban“ (left) and „four seasons“ are the motives of the advertising campaign for the new tires.



DualGuard: A double layer of fabric (blue) and a layer of rubber (red) form a secure anti-puncture combination.

A double layer of fabric within the carcass and a 2.5-mm-thick layer of rubber form a secure, finely tuned anti-puncture combination.

“This golden middle ground that the Marathon GT fills in terms of puncture protection, weight and price is something that we consciously chose because we know that many cyclists want exactly that”, says René Marks, Schwalbe Product Manager for Touring, about the newest Marathon.

A new classification of puncture protection level due to DualGuard

With the introduction of Dual Guard, Schwalbe expands its puncture protection levels from six to seven. “We have revised the classification because we wanted to place the double protection offered by DualGuard exactly in the middle between the other two puncture protection belts. This sees the Marathon Plus go from level 6 to the new highest level 7”, explains Product Manager René Marks. The new DualGuard

obtains puncture protection level 6, while the GreenGuard remains at level 5.

Marathon GT 365: The all-year-round tire

The second new DualGuard tire is the Marathon GT 365. Schwalbe is aiming this tire at those who use their much-loved bike a lot or on a daily basis throughout the entire year and are not put off by wind or rain or both.

The tough and robust all-weather tread with its many grooves can deal with light snowfall and still remain secure on the road. The continuous center rib provides the tire with light rolling characteristics. Larger studs on the side as well as the open tread design provide more traction on unpaved off-road tracks.

Schwalbe has developed the new rubber compound for all four seasons, so that you can always remain on track – even when it’s wet. The high-quality silica compound offers outstanding grip. It remains soft and maintains its grip even in wet weather and at low temperatures. “With this new compound we are tapping into new reserves when it comes to riding safety”, says René Marks.

“Whether on a dirt track or in the park, at temperatures below zero or when it’s wet: These tires always deliver reliable performance. The Marathon GT 365 for the bicycle is what the ‘Mud & Snow’ tire is for the car”, is how the Product Manager sums it up. Although the Marathon GT 365 is an all-year-round tire, it does not replace spiked tires. “We could have also called it GT 360, because cyclists need to change to spikes on around five days a year when it’s icy”.

An overview of the new Marathon trio

Marathon	Marathon GT	Marathon Plus
40-622	40-622	40-622
€ 28.90	€ 32.90	€ 39.90
GreenGuard (Level 5)	DualGuard (Level 6)	SmartGuard (Level 7)
810 grams	870 grams	960 grams

The Marathon GT is in the middle range in terms of price, puncture protection level and weight.



Strong Schwalbe presence, also at the home stretch. In the end, Dylan Groenewegen (Netherlands) won, German André Greipel came in second.

Photos: Hennes Roth

100th “Rund um Köln” race

This cycling event is unique in Germany: for the 100th time, more often than any other race, “Rund um Köln” (“around Cologne”) took place on the 12 June 2016. Schwalbe has been the premium sponsor of the race “on our own doorstep” for many years.

The “Rund um Köln” race has been organized on a voluntary basis for 43 years by Artur Tabat, the chairman of the cycling club Coelner Straßenradfahrer 08 e. V. Without the 74-year-old “Mister Rund um Köln”, this race would not be what it is. For his life’s work and to mark the occasion of the 100th holding of the event, Cologne’s Mayor Henriette Reker invited guests to a reception at the Cologne Sports Museum on the evening before the event.

But the evening of 11 June, which had been planned as a celebration, will more than anything else be instead remembered for the death of Rudi Altig. The organiser Artur Tabat was informed about the death of his good

friend just minutes before giving his speech. He and very many still active and former professional cyclists and honorary guests were visibly moved upon hearing the news. The anniversary race also took place under a veil of mourning for the former World Champion, who was race director of “Rund um Köln” from 1990 until his death.

Schwalbe has been premium sponsor for many years

Rund um Köln and Schwalbe – a match made in cycling heaven. “As a family-run company with a long tradition, we are closely connected with the region, the sport of cycling and in particular this race. Artur Tabat and his

team have achieved something exceptional in always managing to get this race organized, even in difficult times”, says Frank Bohle.

“We also have to say thank you to Schwalbe that we are still able to get this race organised”, adds Artur Tabat. “When things got tight in the years past, Frank Bohle was always there to help. I don’t know any sponsor that has shown as much compassion and commitment for this event. Schwalbe and Rund um Köln are inextricably linked.”

During the two-day celebration of cycling in the Rheinauhafen harbour in Cologne,



The race was dominated by the memory of Rudi Altig, who had died just the day before the race.

Schwalbe was once again strongly represented as premium sponsor and was delighted to pick up points in a total of six stages in the professionals’ race. In addition to this, the tire specialist was also present with an information stand in the finishing line zone, and the Schwalbe Race Support supported the “every man’s race” with three service vehicles.

Saying farewell to Rudi Altig

Cycling legend – the term probably applies to Rudi Altig more than any other German cyclist. He is one of the most successful and most popular German cyclists bar none. His most important triumph was exactly a half century ago: In August 1966 he became World Champion on the road at the Nürburgring in Germany. Since then, no other professional German cyclist has managed to capture the Rainbow jersey. In the nineteen sixties, the Mannheim-born legend won eight stages of the Tour de France and rode a total of 18 days as the wearer of the yellow jersey. Among many other triumphs were: three World Cup titles in individual pursuit on the track, overall Vuelta winner, victories at the classics Tour of Flanders and Milan-Sanremo. He brought down the curtain on his active career at the end of 1970, before first becoming national amateur coach and then

progressing onto the professionals, as well as being race director. He could be repeatedly encountered at races and in the media where he was a much sought-after expert.

And in the past three and a half years, as a Schwalbe ambassador: “Many of you will know him from Eurobike where over the past three years he has been at our trade fair stand to fulfil the requests for photos and autographs from cycling fans. As a unique sporting athlete and as a positively combative person with a zest for life – that is how we are going to remember him”, says Frank Bohle. “And in the way he spontaneously organized a photo session with Angela Merkel at Eurobike 2013. In the flurry of flashing cameras, he stood next to her in his Schwalbe jacket and recommended an e-bike to her.” Rudi Altig died on 11 June 2016 in Remagen (Germany) at the age of 79.



Rudi Altig as race director and Schwalbe ambassador at the 99. edition of the cycling event “Rund um Köln” in 2015.

The first tread cutter specifically for MTB tires

Sharp cuts for fine tuning: Schwalbe presented the first tread cutter for MTB tires at the opening round of the MTB World Cup in Lourdes, France. The tongs, with their exact tread-height adjustment function, allow precise shortening of the tire lugs.



Photo: Nathan Hughes

For tire-tread fine tuning: Schwalbe's new tread cutter.

Interview

Michael Kull, for which purposes is the new tread cutter?

Although we offer a suitable tread for every type of terrain, sometimes unpredictable trail conditions require a unique tread to find the perfect balance of rolling and grip. With the tread cutter, riders can adapt the tire tread even more perfectly to the respective situation. For example, the sturdy center lugs of our mud-terrain tire, Dirty Dan, can be shortened for easier rolling. Or, as with Hans Dampf, the transition lugs in the shoulder area can be trimmed, giving more free

space, and making the tread more aggressive. Lugs that have been worn "round" can have a straight edge again. This is the first tread cutter developed specifically for MTB tires. With it, you can cut the lugs off with a smooth edge and – thanks to the cutting-height adjustment – to your exact required height.

At the MTB World Cup in Lourdes there was a lot of rain. What was the tread cutter used for?

The ground was soft and muddy with stony sections and roots. The majority of riders had our Dirty Dan mud-terrain tires and shortened the middle studs in

order to roll faster and reduce the stud flex in stony sections and passages with lots of roots. The tires self-cleaning ability is also improved by this.

How do you feel as a manufacturer when you see your profiles being altered?

In order to squeeze out that last drop of speed during a race with special ground conditions we think it's absolutely fine that the studs are shortened. For a customer who doesn't compete in races and



Michael Kull, Schwalbe Marketing and Race Support.

therefore doesn't require tires optimized to save hundredths of a second, will ride best with our series tires.

Is Schwalbe now also becoming a tool manufacturer?

We're sticking with rubber. We developed the pliers in cooperation with the renowned Slovenian tool manufacturer Unior.

A facelift for Schwalbe One

Schwalbe One is starting the 2017 season with new equipment: A dynamic profile design and a new compound make this evolution tire even better. It now comes in four different colors in the 25 millimeter size. The

German Triathlon Magazine 'tri-mag' has already tested it in its June edition and wrote the following: "Schwalbe

is pursuing a super all-round tactic with the One and this plan is working perfectly. The Schwalbe One has shown itself on the whole to be a durable model without weaknesses."



Schwalbe Tubeless Easy Kit

To ensure that a tubeless conversion is really easy: The new Schwalbe Tubeless Easy Kit offers everything for that. In the pack you get a roll of tubeless rim tape, two tubeless valves, two bottles of Doc Blue sealing fluid, Easy Fit mounting solution and a set of tire-levers. The kit will be available in rim-tape sizes 21, 23, 25 millimeter – for all common rims, whether MTB or racing bike.

"Whoever wants to convert to tubeless will find everything they need in this kit", explains Johannes Binner from Schwalbe Marketing. The rim tape is particularly easy to



use and is so robust that only one layer is sufficient to seal the system. The tubeless valve with conical valve base is compatible with many rims on the market. All accessories are also available individually.



Photo: Christiane Reppe

A Golden Thank You:
The Sopur athletes Vico Merklein (left) and Christiane Reppe dedicated their gold medals at the World Cup in Belgium to their Team Boss Errol Marklein (middle). Right: Sopur rider Jani Peltopuro.

Schwalbe athletes hunt for medals in Rio

At the 2016 Paralympics, the German para-cycling athletes will be at the starting line on Schwalbe tires. Schwalbe fosters a particularly close working relationship with the German handcycling team Sopur Quickie, the works team of the wheelchair manufacturer Sunrise Medical. Schwalbe came up with an individual motivation aid for the riders: Personalized tires.

"Racing tires with one's own name – a true first, more motivation is hardly possible. When we received the tires it was a very emotional moment", says Errol Marklein, Head of the Sopur Handcycling Team. This means that the German handcyclists Vico Merklein, Christiane Reppe and Kim Kluever Christiansen, as well as Mischa Hielkma (Netherlands), Jani Peltopuro (Finland) and Arkadiusz Skrypinkski (Poland) will go to the starting line in Rio for their respective national teams with their "very own" tires.

The Sopur team is one of the world's leading handcycle teams and it can thank its Team Boss Errol Marklein more than anyone else for its success. The six-time Paralympics champion in wheelchair racing, European Champion in handcycling and Trondheim-Oslo rider has influenced the wheelchair scene in Germany more than anyone else. Since 1980 he has worked in the product development department at the wheelchair manufacturer Sunrise Medical in Heidelberg and since 1982

he has successfully headed up the most successful German handcycling team. In Rio, "his" athletes will come up against each other in their national teams. "To the front in the team, and for yourself at the end", that is the motto. "In order to come in first, a tough opponent is always needed. This means that even an individual gold medal is always a team achievement. To bring the athletes to the top as a team is even better than winning yourself", says the 59-year-old Team Boss.

The hopes from a German perspective rest, in particular, on the shoulders of Vico Merklein and Christiane Reppe, who both won gold at the 2016 World Cup in Belgium. Vico Merklein (39) is the world-record holder over the Marathon distance, German Champion in time trials and silver medallist at the Paralympics in London in 2012. Christiane Reppe (29) was world champion in handcycle street racing in 2014 and 2015, and also holds the Marathon world record. The team boss thinks they have good chances at the Paralympics. "We are pretty relaxed because at the World Cup in May we were able to compete with the world elite and we picked up three of the possible four gold medals in the process. This tells us that the shape and material are correct and that we will not have to carry out adjustments during the summer."

The product developer Marklein is also a pioneer when it comes to the selection of



Photo: Vico Merklein

Vico Merklein with his personalized tire.

tires available. The Sopur handcyclists will be the only ones with tubeless tires on their back wheels, Schwalbe Pro One in 20 inch and 28 millimeters wide – something completely new. "The wide tubeless tires are extremely stable, roll better, they absorb impacts and cushion very well, and provide comfort and security." 26-inch and 22 millimeter-wide Durano tubular tires roll up front.

He has tested all the tires himself since the autumn of 2015, and even had fun made of him due to the thick tires. "I always just said that it was because of the puncture protection. That they also rolled better, that is something that I kept to myself. Everything depends on the tires, both in a positive as well as a negative sense."



Schwalbe will be partner of the "German House" during the Paralympics 2016 from 8. – 18. of September in Rio de Janeiro. Handcycling events: 14. – 15. September.

August 31 – September 4, 2016
September 21 – 23, 2016

Eurobike, Friedrichshafen, Germany, hall A5, stand 300
Interbike, Las Vegas, USA, stand 9097



A road bike instead of a wheelchair

Up until around 25 years ago, the MS sufferer Andreas Beseler from Germany could barely walk. He then learned how to ride a bike all over again. Today he is a successful cyclist and touring rider. In June he completed his third stage tour, this time from Rodgau (Germany) to St. Tropez (France) during which he not only collected donations for MS patients, but he also gave a great deal of hope and inspiration to those suffering from the disease.

When he is on his racing bike you don't even realize that he suffers from MS, his training regime sees him sometimes ride 200 kilometers each day. "The bike is my replacement for the wheelchair, my walking frame and my fitness equipment", says the 50-year-old Rodgau resident. It was a journey that took many years to get this far. In the summer of 1993, when he could still barely walk, his friend with whom he used to take part in mountain-bike races, sat him onto a mountain bike. "I learned to ride a bike again just like a child." After a few weeks, the first longer distance was cycled. Year after year he fought to reconquer his mobility and independence despite the progression of the disease which was creeping instead of advancing in thrusts of deterioration.

"Each year I was able to ride more mountains and also cycle faster and for longer distances. The more resistance I felt on the mountain, the better I was able to ride the bike, the better my muscles were able to work", says Beseler, who completed six relay triathlons in record times in just the year 2015 alone. "When the disease first took hold, I would have never thought that it could have been possible." This was also a motivation to pass on and share his experiences with others, to give others the courage to try it themselves.

He combined both in 2013 with his charity fund-raising project "A bike instead of a wheelchair", which saw him travel 3,600 kilometers through Canada from North to South. A year later Beseler was then joined by 40 cycling friends on his "Besel & Friends Tour", which saw the group travel the around 1,800 kilometers from Frankfurt to Barcelona in 14 days. The group enjoyed a lot of attention and publicity through Facebook and several TV reports which documented their journey. "That was where I realized for the first time what we were actually doing, and how much we could give other people", emphasizes Beseler. Both projects collected more than 80,000 Euro for the foundation Nathalie-Todenhöfer-Stiftung, which provides support for MS patients in times of emergency and need.

In 2016 the journey went from Rodgau to St. Tropez in twelve stages of overall 1,700 kilometers and 72 riders, among them sufferers from MS, rheumatism, cancer, or morbus Bechterew. "This was our most beautiful tour so far. The assumed weak riders even sometimes dragged the assumed strong riders along. And we all reached our destination together."

Schwalbe supported the tour with tires, tubes and accessories, as well as making a financial contribution.

Besel (middle) and friends cycled in twelve stages, among them to the famous Mt. Ventoux (left), to St. Tropez at the Cote d'Azur.

Photos: Beseler / Berlin Bike Blog

Fixie World Champion

Alexander Müller (Germany) from Team Maloja Pushbikers won the RadRace Fixed World Championship over 42 kilometers on Schwalbe Pro One 25-662. More than 500 fixie riders took part in this unofficial fixie World Championship in Berlin in June. The Maloja Pushbikers team was founded over six years ago in Upper Bavaria, and it is today one of the best track-cycling teams in the world. The riders have been and continue to be successful on the track, on the road and in cross events. This season sees a further discipline being added: fixie races. And what does the word pushbike actually mean? It is the nostalgic description for the bicycle from the time when "bike" only meant motorcycle and the term bicycle or pushbike was used.
www.malojapushbikers.com



Photo: Drew Kaplan