**Experience Report: Swimrun Rheinsberg** **June 30, 2024**

For the eighth time, the SwimRun Rheinsberg was on the program – a competition that is refreshingly different in many ways.

As one of the largest international events with over 600 participants, the day started with the Kids, Youth, and Family events. The Family relay with 40 teams quickly sold out, and over 100 kids set off in waves to experience their first SwimRun adventure. At the finish line, the newbies could proudly announce their achievement by ringing a bell – a great idea.

The course is ideal for SwimRun beginners: flat, well-marked, clear swimming sections, and beautiful trails through green forests with various lakes. The scenery with Rheinsberg Castle and the short climb to the obelisk is special, as is the finish line along several restaurants from which participants receive enthusiastic cheers.

The perfect organization by the experienced SCC Berlin Marathon team added to the enjoyment of a successful sporting day. The start in many small waves ensured a congestion-free first swim.

The only spoiler for some of the SwimRun participants on the half-distance course was the weather forecast. Due to a thunderstorm warning between 2 PM and 4 PM, the cut-off time at the halfway point had to be moved up, causing some participants to finish earlier.

This did not dampen the spirits, and delicious strawberries, plenty of Erdinger beer, and a pasta party were enjoyed at the finish line.

A big thank you to the many helpers and the team around Michael Gerlach for the optimal atmosphere and organization. The team's coordination was evident in the victory of Michael Gerlach with Eugen Klein in the sprint distance. Gerlach also participated with his daughter in the Family event, alongside his organizational duties.