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**Mixed tandem teams cycle for children with neuromuscular disorders  
Spierathlon: Triathlon with VIPs and PINOs**

*At the Dutch short-distance triathlon, children with neuromuscular disorders, together with their teammates, raised €222,777 for a good cause. And the unique tandems from HASE BIKES helped make it all possible.*

The Spierathlon is a short-distance triathlon organised by the Dutch foundation Spieren voor Spieren – Muscles for Muscles. The most recent event took place in early June of this year near Amsterdam and included a swim of 500 metres, a bike ride of 20 kilometres (12 miles) and a run of five kilometres (3 miles). Fun was the order of the day – and could be seen on the faces of the enthusiastic participants. The foundation was established in 1998 by football manager Jan Reker, together with the Dutch national football team, to support children with neuromuscular disorders. Many of the most famous Dutch athletes are ambassadors of the foundation and grace the events with their celebrity presence. The ambassadors at this year's Spierathlon included Pieter van den Hoogenband – "World Swimmer of the Year" in 2000 and multiple Olympic champion – who joined participants in the water for the first swim start.



The PINO tandem from German specialist bike manufacturer HASE BIKES was the first choice as a team vehicle for the cycling leg of the Spierathlon. It enabled 60 children with neuromuscular disorders to actively participate in the race. The front, recumbent seat of the semi-recumbent tandem can be adjusted to fit riders from 100 to 200 centimetres (3'3" – 6'7") in height. Furthermore, adaptive accessories from HASE BIKES – ranging from children's cranksets and special pedals to leg supports and hand cranks – can be used for customising the front seat to the physical needs of practically any rider. Spieren voor Spieren was quick to recognise the potential of this special tandem – the foundation purchased 20 PINOs for its first Spierathlon event in 2015 and, after an impressive premiere, added another ten to its fleet for 2016.

### **Olympic champion as tandem captain**

The triathlon teams consisted of participants with and without neuromuscular disorders who partnered up for the individual disciplines. Children with disabilities were pulled in a rubber dinghy by their swimming partners and pushed in a wheelchair by their running partners. The participation fee was €100 per team, and practically all competitors supported the foundation by collecting further donations from their friends, families and social networks.

Barbara de Loor, world and Olympic champion speed skater, was one of the many enthusiastic ambassadors from the Spieren voor Spieren Foundation. She competed as a cycling partner for a child with a neuromuscular disorder. "I'm so impressed with the PINO," said the 42-year-old. "It's such a fantastic concept. So versatile. And not only for adaptive cycling!" It was easy to see how much fun she and her young co-pilot were having on the tandem.

"Our cooperation with the foundation has been a great opportunity for us as a bicycle retailer to show how much can be accomplished with the right vehicle," explained Joost Schuit, manager of the bike shop T'mannetje in Haarlem. He and his crew of six employees were responsible for preparing the PINOs for each new team between cycling races. Several weeks prior to the event, they had tested and documented the exact accessories and adjustments that would be required for each of the 30 individual tandems so that they could make these changes as quickly as a Formula-1 box team.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

The enthusiastic athletes did such a great job raising funds that they were able to present the foundation with a cheque for €222,777. The donations will be used primarily for funding specialist medical centres devoted to researching and treating neuromuscular disorders. “We as a bike manufacturer are happy to support such a successful project with our products,” said Kirsten Hase, head of marketing at HASE BIKES.

### **Pictures:**



Lightning fast, and not just on the ice: the former Olympic champion Barbara de Loor as captain on a PINO tandem from HASE BIKES.



Asphalt instead of ice, teammate instead of solo star: the ex-Olympic champion Barbara de Loor also had loads of fun on the PINO tandem, powering the pedals for a good cause.



*Note: These photos can be downloaded in high-quality format via the following link:*

<http://www.amedes.de/ftp/hasebikes/Spierathlon.zip>

### **About HASE BIKES**

Since 1994 company founder Marec Hase has been developing innovative tandems and recumbent bikes and trikes that offer exceptional practicality and versatility, along with unparalleled riding fun. The KETTWIESEL “cornering machine” has since attained cult status, and the versatile PINO tandem is not only a beloved family taxi and cargo bike, but also the most widely used touring tandem in the world. The HASE BIKES manufacturing facility, with more than 40 employees, is situated on the historical grounds of the former coalmine Zeche Waltrop in the famous German Ruhr district. Information on the latest HASE BIKES specials and the ideas behind its vehicle designs can be found at [www.hasebikes.com](http://www.hasebikes.com). The German version of the website links to the informative HASE BIKES BLOG.