
BIG's News Letter 2006_03 (English Version)

Introduction:

It's getting close to summer holiday now. Time to reach for foreign BIGs! We've highlighted quite a few in the newsletters and I hope it has inspired you for your summer holiday. That's what I like about the BIG challenge. It's a good excuse to go to nice places and to cycle uphill. It's a perfect match. But first there is another newsletter to read.

Chapters of this newsletter

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1. BIG news.

a) **SPECIAL PROMOTION : JERSEYS : END OF SERIE : -30%.**

The first serie of jerseys has been. Only 40 less now. For ending this serie, the BIG and its Jersey's manager , Bernard Giraudeau, agreed to offer special promotion now. – 30%, it's a good occasion to wear the jerseys that made us known all over the mountains. The hot winter jersey doesn't cost 94 € anymore but 65 €. The middle seasons jerseys doesn't cost 54 € anymore but 40 € and the summer's jersey costs 30 €. See the point number 5.

- b) We received information from Ernesto Panza on the BIGs that were cycled during the Giro d'Italia this year. Now I know this is in fact old news but you know you are able to look at the news yourself at: www.ccc.be. I will still list the climbs as I am glad that members send this kind of news to us and it's nice to see what BIGs are also cycled by the professionals. Here is the list:

Stage	Date	BIG n°	BIG name	Remark
4	09/05/2006	132	Cote de Wanne(S)	Belgium BIG
7	13/05/2006	769	San Marino(W)	
8	14/05/2006	786	Passo Lanciano	Partly
10	16/05/2006	788	Monte Sant'Angelo(S)	Side not listed
13	20/05/2006)	677	Colle San Carlo(E)	
14	21/05/2006	737	Colle Gran San Bernardo(S)	Through the tunnel, thus partly
		583	Passo del Sempione(N)	
16	23/05/2006	706	Monte Bondone(N)	
17	24/05/2006	710	Passo delle Erbe(NW)	
18	25/05/2006	634	Plockenpass(N)	
19	26/05/2006	714	Passo Fedai(E)	
		713	Passo Pordoi(W)	
29	27/05/2006	696	Passo di Gavia(S)	
		694	Passo del Mortirolo(NW)	

- c) Eric Lucas describes for you some very beautiful BIG climbs in the British Isles that he has just climbed during Easter 2006: <http://membres.lycos.fr/jeanineb/> . Don't forget to visit too the magnificent pictures, French descriptions and dioramas in Olivier Dupeyroux's website. You can ride a virtual climb to the Lagos de Covadonga. <http://panneauxcols.free.fr/Cols%20en%20photos/004-Covadonga.htm>
- d) Thanks to Claudio Montefusco, the new and very well shaped Spanish review "Pedalier" sold in Spain for the cycletourists has presented a page about us. You can have a look at this article on our press page: <http://danielgobert.free.fr/presse.htm>
- e) Like the news about the Giro, here are the BIGs ridden by the racers in the Tour of France 2006. This news was send to us by Fred Martin.

Stage	Date	BIG n°	BIG name	Remark
3	04/07/2006	104	Cauberg	
8	09/07/2006	207	Mûr-de-Bretagne(S)	
10	12/07/2006	333	Col de Marie-Blanche(W)	Partly
11	13/07/2006	341	Col du Tourmalet(W)	
		344	Col d'Aspin(W)	Partly
		348	Col de Peyresourde(W)	
		425	Col du Portillon(W)	
15	18/07/2006	294	Col d'Izoard(S)	
		290	Alpe d'Huez	
16	19/07/2006	291	Col du Galibier(SW)	
		287	Col de la Croix-de-Fer(NE)	
17	20/07/2006	276	Col de la Colombière(S)	
		274	Col de Joux-Plane(S)	

- f) About 100 new descriptions of BIGs have been added to our listing of 1.000 thanks to our members. Let's sit down, travel and climb virtually: <http://dominiquethirifays.free.fr/schemasdubig/schemas.htm>

Then we received news from Richard van Ameijden on an event called: Alpe d'HuZes. Now this needs to be explained a bit. Zes is a Dutch word meaning: "6". And on the 6th of June of this year, or 06-06-'06, a number of cyclists, 66 to be precise, went to France to perform the climb to Alpe d'Huez 6 times in one day. Hence the name Alpe d'HuZes. Richard was one of these 66 Matadors.

I have a colleague, Arjen Bos, who also was part of the 66 cyclist. And he asked us, his colleagues, to sponsor as they would donate the money to the Wilhelmina Cancer Fund (KWF).

The event Alpe d'HuZes was a big success: 61 climbers, including Arjen and Richard, reached the finish in one day. They started at 06 past 06 in the morning and Richard reached the finish without any problem and quite fresh at 6 before 6 in the afternoon. It took Arjen some 3 ½ hours more but he persisted and made the climb also 6 times. "Quitting is not an option!", as the Matadors would say themselves. And I think they have done an astonishing prestation.



With this event they managed to raise almost 300,000 Euro for the KWF. All collected by the matadors themselves.

In the summer of 2006 the book of the story of Alpe d'HuZes will be published. I'm proud to have been a sponsor of this event. But the Matadors did it of course, a great job for a great cause!

You can read more about this amazing event, if you understand Dutch, on: <http://www.alpe-dhuzes.nl/> or look at the pictures on: <http://www.erwincardol.nl/gallery/AlpedHuZes>.

2. BIG rules!

You may have seen that every now and then we refer to the list of 1,000. Now this is a bit misleading as the actual list only contains 950 BIGs. I guess most of you do not know this and most will not care either as 950 BIGs provide plenty of uphill cycling. But it might be good to know why we are lacking 50 BIGs in our list.

The 950 BIGs that are in our list are all situated in Europe. Now if only the toughest climbs were selected for the list then the BIGs would all be situated in the well known mountain ranges such as Alps and Pyrenees for instance. But I like it that BIGs have been spread over Europe and that even in the Netherlands for instance you can find a few BIGs. Therefore, Europe has been subdivided into a number of zones. And for each zone the amount of BIGs has been set. Here are the zones that are defined for Europe and the amount of BIGs that have been set for it:

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| • Zone 01 | Nordic countries: | 50 BIGs |
| • Zone 02 | Great Britain | 50 BIGs |
| • Zone 03 | Benelux | 50 BIGs |
| • Zone 04 | Germany | 50 BIGs |
| • Zone 05 | France | 175 BIGs |
| • Zone 06 | Spain & Portugal | 150 BIGs |
| • Zone 07 | Switzerland | 75 BIGs |
| • Zone 08 | Austria | 75 BIGs |
| • Zone 09 | Italy | 150 BIGs |
| • Zone 10 | Carpathians & Eastern European | 50 BIGs |
| • Zone 11 | Balkans & Islands | 75 BIGs |

If you add them up you will get just 950 BIGs. So what about the other 50? Well, there is a 12th zone that is called: Remainder of the world. And for that zone 50 BIGs can be climbed. Are you curious now what BIGs have been defined for the remainder of the world? Then I have to disappoint you, there are actually no BIGs defined for zone 12. But, the good thing is that you can select your own 50 BIGs as long as they are conforming to the following requirements:

- Out of the 50 climbs in zone 12, 10 must be done in Asia, 10 in Africa, 10 in Oceania, 10 in South-America and 10 in North America.
- Average height of the 50 BIGs in zone 12 must always be greater than 500m. The total height difference for the 50 BIGs in zone 12 must therefore exceed 25,000m.
- For every BIG cycled in zone 12, the member must declare the name of the ascension and the height difference covered.

So, in case you will go on a holiday to the US (Rocky Mountains) or Africa (Drakensberg Mountains) for instance then don't forget to take along your bike and add some claims for zone 12! And don't forget to give some feedback to us as I for sure am very interested in BIG claims in zone 12. You can find this BIG rule at: <http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-en.htm>, point 3.1.

3. About a BIG.



Let's go more towards the east. Not much this time because Croatia is a country with a very special shape. BIG number 889, called Dom Vosac, is a little more on the east but more in the south too. Its top's real name is Sveti Jure and the name of the road is the Biokovo Road -1762m.

Biokovo road was built in 1965 from the Staza (879m) pass to the summit of Sv.Jure (1762m), the highest peak of the mountain with the purpose to access TV buildings and a tower. The road is the highest in Croatia and takes you from Makarska (0m) to the summit (1762m) in 31km. Entrance is around 4€ during the day while during the night it is for free. It is very attractive with fantastic views on the Biokovo karst and sea & islands below. A highly recommended trip.

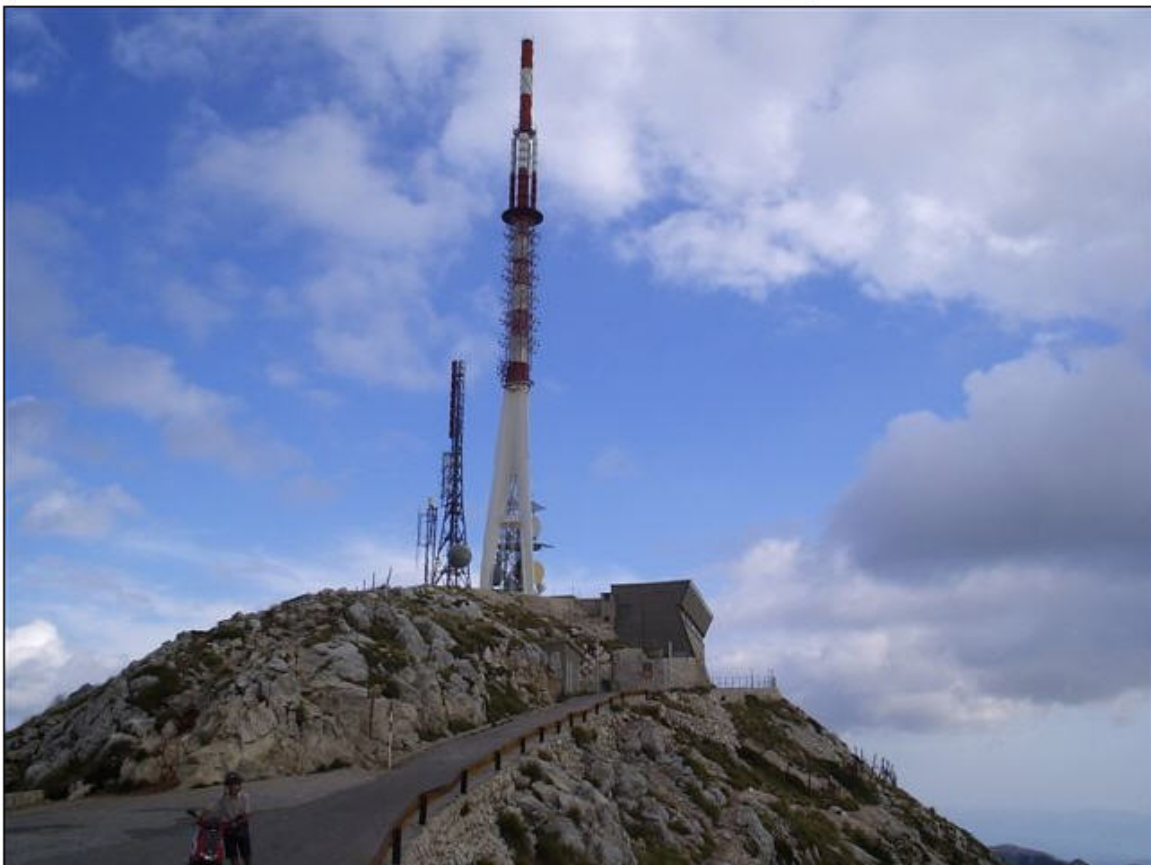


From the gas station near the NW entrance to Makarska it is 3km to a crossing where signs will point left towards Vrgorac. The road gradually ascends cutting along green terraces below Biokovo wall, passing through Gornji Tucepi < Srida Sela villages.

After 7km is the junction where it is left towards Sv.Jure. Here is the entrance of Biokovo road and toll house with souvenirs and maps. The road now ascends more steeply, first through nice pine forest, than it narrows after reaching very steep slopes below Staza pass. Here the road is quite dizzying with cliffs above and a green pine carpet and blue sea below.

5km from the junction it reaches Staza pass where there is a restaurant and nice view point. Beyond the pass, the macadam road continues over inner Biokovo towards the continental part behind the mountain, while Biokovo road turns left and continues to ascend steeply. After around 3-4km, there is a very exciting section with amazing view where road is cut into the seaboard side of the mountain which falls some 1200m towards the sea, almost perpendicularly with scree and cliffs! Just beyond this section the road enters inner Biokovo which it won't leave for the next 10km. It is a depression between seaboard and continental chains of peaks and the road gradually ascends. The terrain is mostly rocky and looks like a rocky desert with very little greenery coming from some grass and rare trees. But on some spots, the road passes through nice basins with green meadows on the bottom. 10km from Staza pass there is a junction towards Vosac hut (500m). From the hut it is only 15mins to Vosac (1422m) peak. Don't miss to climb this stunning viewpoint from which there is an unbelievable view from bird's perspective down on Makarska town and further on the sea and the islands Brac & Hvar and cliffs of Biokovo. Behind the junction the road ascends more steeply occasionally going through beech groves.

Nadajnik na Sv. Jure



After 3km it cuts steep slopes of Troglav (1659m), second highest peak of Biokovo with views towards east and continent. In front is the huge Sv.Jure with tall TV tower on the summit.

The road passes just by Sv.Jure refuge and in 5 sharp 180° bends ascends till the summit, 6km from Vosac junction. This last section is very exciting because the road is cut into the steep slopes with fantastic views. In front of the entrance to the TV compound is small parking where quite a jam I probable in summer. It is better to leave a car by the road near the refuge and walk to the summit via road or mountain path (30mins). This way you can enjoy panoramas longer and better.

4. Regional Rendezvous'

- a) We had some feedback from the first regional rendezvous located in Luxemburg in May 2006. Extreme splendid weather for both days and a very good atmosphere between the BIGers, with some great movements, arrivals and departures all along the week-end. 14 cyclists for the Sunday in Luxemburg and a little less the day after in Germany.

Some small problems for some of them to find the climbs in Luxemburg. Very precise maps would have been necessary. But the general group stayed together even if the speed was not the same for each other. Sometimes, like in each rendezvous, some guys meet some other one somewhere on the way, discussing together about the way to take.

The youth hostel was sympathetic with no great food but with selffishing comfort to keep the kind and convivial atmosphere of our cycloclimbing challenge. At the end, much sun and between three and ten BIGs more for about 20 BIGers.

Thanks to Marc Desender for his welcome and for organising this great rendezvous!

- b) The next rendezvous is located in Hungary. Presently, only the Hungarians have subscribed but it's a good occasion for them to meet themselves and perhaps to help us to organise a better serie in their country. If Kekestető, Galyatető, Dobogo-Kő and Mecsek-Misina seem to be a must, Bankút and Várhegy seem to have to be changed. We are waiting some good suggestions about it after their meeting. And obviously, very good pictures too. If you are interested in, it's not too late but very urgent. It's in the beginning of July
- c) The third rendezvous that you can still attend to is the one in **Spain** on the **22th and 23rd of July**.

This rendezvous in Cataluña will cover the following BIGs:

- Stage 1 (~130km): BIG 434: Coll Formic and BIG 433: Turo de l'Home
- Stage 2: BIG 432: Coll de Bracons

Here are the people who have subscribed to it:

1. Claudio Montefusco (Saturday& Sunday)
2. Jose Luis Arteaga (Saturday &Sunday)
3. Xavier Joya (Saturday &Sunday)
4. Xavier Cosials (Saturday)
5. Daniel Gobert (Sunday)

Just think about it, 3 BIGs and close to Barcelona...

- d) The last Rendezvous' (Redoutable near Liège in Belgium and the one in the French Alps) will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

5. BIG Jerseys.

There are still BIG jerseys available, and now with – 30%. In case you want to order a beautiful BIG jersey, then you can mail Bernard Giraudeau at: <mailto:bernard.giraudeau@wanadoo.fr>



1-Maillot été - Summer's jersey 30€

short-sleeved, long zip, 3 backside pockets.

Stock: 2S, 4M, 5L, 9XL, 2XXL

2-Maillot automne - autumn's jersey 40€

Jerseys long-sleeved, long zip, 3 backside pockets.

Stock: 2L, 2XL

3-Gilet d'été, Summer's vest 40€

without sleeves, in waterstop (waterproof, windcheater, breathfull and washable in machine), 3 backside pockets.

Stock : 1S, 2M, 4L, 3 XL

4-Veste d'hiver , winter's jacket 65€

Winter thermic jackets, in waterstop and elasthany, 2 backside pockets, protection under the zip.

Stock: 4L, 2XL, 3XXL

5. Conclusion:

As you know, you can always share your summer plans with other members by sending your summer plans by email to our President: <mailto:danielgobert@swing.be>. He will put the summerplans on our web immediately he has promised. You can look at the summer plans on: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/summer.htm>

So, go for it during your summer holiday and claim BIGs in either in zones 1 up to 11 or in zone 12 even. And I hope you come back with nice stories, pictures and a fair amount of BIGs to be added to your Palmaris.

Happy holiday,
Helmuth Dekkers, BIG's secretary

6. Translation Links:

This Newsletter from the BIG is only in English or French. You can translate it to your own language through automatic translators like: http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en.

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