
BIG's News Letter 2006_04 (English Version)

Introduction:

Welcome back! I guess most of us have returned from their summer holiday and I hope you have had nice weather, like I had myself, and that you were able to cycle some foreign BIGs. I'm satisfied with my result, one more than planned and one less than I hoped for ☺. This newsletter will tell you how and when to register these and other BIGs that you have conquered this year. And we have reached another milestone as we have more than 500 members now. The 500th member is a special one so read on.

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1. **BIG news.**

It's summertime so the amount of news is less than normal. But nevertheless we have an overview of course:

- a) The rendezvous' in Luxemburg, Hungary and Cataluna have taken place. Summaries of the rendezvous in Hungary and Catalonia, including pictures, can be found on:
<http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/rv-hun-2006.htm>
<http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/rv-cat-2006.htm>
- b) The German professional tour has visited the Harz massive without climbing one BIG. But now, in Austria, it attacks the Hahntennjoch (BIG 606).
- c) And we have crossed another border as we have now more than 500 members! Our 500th member is Kurt Van de Wouwer. An excellent professional racer and climber, having reached the top 20 in the Tour de France of '98, '99 and 2000 member. You can read more about him on:
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/Kurt-BIG-500-e.htm>.
Or if in case you prefer Dutch on:
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/Kurt-BIG-500-nl.htm>.



The news above can also be found on our webpage:
<http://users.swing.be/danielgobert/actu2006.htm>

2. BIG Rules !

We'll have soon to say goodbye to this chapter that has been part for quite some time in our news letters because there will be few rules that will be useful to highlight to you. In case it is needed we will of course point out changes in rules that are important for you in coming newsletters. And in case you have any questions on rules then you can ask your regional GIO (comity of the BIG). You can find the regional GIOs via the following link: <http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/comity.htm>.

At the end of this season, the GIO will dispatch the listing of 1.000 in DZ (Definitive Zones) and TZ (Temporary Zones) and will debate, work and vote to determine what zones will be marked TZ in the goal to have at the end of the year 2007, a definitive listing with very small changes in the future.

3. 2006 Claims.

Between the 1st of September and the 31st of December 2006, all the members of the BIG challenge will be able to send their 2006-claims through the official BIG website.

Attention, send in your results only once in case you are certain not to climb another BIG during the 2006 season.

To do this, please go to the left column of the BIG's website home page (<http://users.swing.be/danielgobert> or <http://www.big-passacol.be/>) and click on the link called « resultats-2006-claims ».

You'll reach a page showing 4 links on the top, one counter for the number of forms sent and a listing of the members colored according to the fact that they have or have not sent their results for this present season. The first link will invite you to fill the official form for your 2006-claims. You'll follow the instructions and note your characteristics and 2006-claims. You may choose between being a simple **subscribed-member** (0 € - simply your name and claims in the BIG's classifications or being a **registered member** (10 € - name and claims in the classifications + reception at home of the annual review in March 2007 + eventual diplomas). If you can't send the form by this way, please copy what you've written and send it directly to: <mailto:danielgobert@swing.be>.

Note: If you haven't climbed any new BIGs during this year or if you are a very new member just having sent your listing a few weeks ago, please, fill the form by writing « 0 » in the numbers claimed.

The second link will give you the updated classification based on the previous ranking plus the new claims sent for the year 2006.

The third link will give you, just like the year before, for each member, the listing of his 2006-claims with the countries of those BIGs.

The fourth and last link will give you some statistics just like the average number of claims per person, the datas per country or the top20 of the members for the present 2006 season.

4. GIOs wanted.

Arnaud Decostre, for Belgium, and Anders Wånell, for Sweden, have resigned as being a GIO for having not enough time for this work. So, two places are free now. If you are a Belgium member, or if you are a member from the Nordic countries (or living in), and if you are interested in integrating this committee, in the way to vote for the listing of 1.000, please send your candidature to <mailto:danielgobert@swing.be>. The member, with the lowest number of subscription, will be officially included in the GIO, according to our internal rules.

5. About a BIG.

Well, thanks to our president it is possible to continue our journey to the East. We continue our tour in the opposite way of the clocks (counter clockwise), to the south-east before returning through the north-east to the north-west. Making a kind of circle, we are now in the Serbian country. The main high massive mountains are more in the new country Montenegro than in the central Serbia but the latter has one reminder great climb, leading to a well-known winter resort called: Kopaonik.

When you read the BIG's listing, you see « Pancicev Vrh » for number 898. Before, the name was « Suvo Rudiste ». The following map will show you that those two names are the names of the two mounts up the resort and that the road finishes like an end-road in the resort called Kopaonik.



This BIG is a mediatic BIG. Not for most of us, living in the western countries, but it was for instance the main final top of the main stage in the last two Serbian tours for professional racers.

Here is a picture of the arrival at the top of this race in 2005:



Slovenian cyclists Matija Kavsina and Hrvoje Miholjevič passes finish line on Kopaonik mountain 15.06.2005.



With a length of about 20 kilometers leading to an altitude of approximately « 1800m », with a good surface and a large road, Kopaoniku seems similar to many occidental winter resorts. In the beginning of the climb, you'll be welcome in the national park of Kopaonik under a beautiful bridge (picture to the left).

Afterwards, the road will climb in the trees and deeply in the mountain range, through hairpins and curves, giving the ability sometimes to look upwards and to see, the first buildings of the winter resorts and the TV towers on the mountains nearby (see picture below).



You'll finally arrive at the end of the road in front of the main hostels of the resort, with some playing areas all around and the foot of the chairlifts for skiing, too (see picture below).



6. Regional Rendezvous'

- a) As stated before, the **3rd of September** the Bicycle Club Ougréeen organises the **Redoutable**. This is not really a regional rendezvous of the BIG this year but as it is organized by the oldest of our members, we bring it to your attention. The entire benefits of this event will go to a good cause: Doctors without Borders. I have cycled it last year and I can recommend it to everyone. There are 5 new routes:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. 85km (1300 altimeters) | depart from 07:30 - 09:30, | entry fee 2.5 € |
| 2. 65km | depart from 07:30 - 09:30, | entry fee 2.5 € |
| 3. 50km | depart from 07:30 - 09:30, | entry fee 2,00 € |
| 4. 25km (125 altimeters) | depart from 10:00, | entry fee,
you pay if you want. |
| 5. 10km (Flat route for families) | depart from 10:00, | entry fee,
you pay if you want. |

For the 2 longest routes there is even a good revitalisation point on the Col de Hermanne, you can win a prize in a Tombola when you arrive back in Rotheux. And you get a card for a drink (50-65 and 85 km).

Starting point is Tavern des Moges in Rotheux Rimièrè near the church (easy carpark, possibility to shower even).

Rotheux is on the main road going from Liège to Marche. At 17 km of Liège. Coming from Liège, turn left. Coming from Marche, turn right.

For more information you can contact: Jacques Franck either by phone +32 0 43713376 or 0499372772 or you can use email: <mailto:jacques.franck@teledisnet.be>.

- b) The next regional rendezvous, and the last one planned for 2006, takes place on the 29th of October in the French Alps and is organised by Pierre Chatel. Frenchmen and Italian guys, living not too far from there : it's your rendezvous of the year. Don't miss it ! The BIG climbed will be: Col de Porte - charmant som (1650 m) with maximum % sometimes around 30%. The lunch (on the top or on the Col de Porte, to be updated) will cost approximatively 25 euros without the drinks, but it depends on the number of members subscribed, of course.

More information on: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/rv-alp-2006.htm>.

7. Conclusion:

Well, again a newsletter full of information. I'm curious what parts are read and what parts are not. Drop me a mail (<mailto:phme.dekkers@zonnet.nl>) and let me know, so we can tailor the newsletter so it fits your needs best.

Best regards,
Helmuth Dekkers, BIG's secretary

8. 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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