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## BIG's News Letter 2006\_05 (English Version)

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### Introduction:

Here we go again, a news letter stuffed with cycling news for BIG members. There are a lot of changes. Changing GIOs, Changing Passacol, changing results due to members registering their 2006 claims. The BIG challenge is alive and kicking. And you can read all about it in this newsletter.

### Chapters of this newsletter

1. **BIG news.**
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### 1. BIG news.

- a) We have four GIOs that have resigned from being a GIO due to lack of time but fortunately not from being a BIG member. So, a BIG thank you goes out to Anders Wånell, Bernard Giraudeau, Arnaud Decostre and Hans Koedijker for all the work that they have done for the BIG. Note that Hans Koedijker will keep on the position of editor of the Review magazine that we distribute once a year.

And welcome to Frédéric Bruguier, see picture to the right, as new GIO replacing Bernard Giraudeau.



For the other 2 positions, the new GIOs can apply as described in article 3.4.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Article 3.4 (French):  | <a href="http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-fr.htm">http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-fr.htm</a> |
| Article 3.4 (English): | <a href="http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-en.htm">http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-en.htm</a> |
| Article 3.4 (Dutch):   | <a href="http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-ne.htm">http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-ne.htm</a> |
| Article 3.4 (Italian): | <a href="http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-it.htm">http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-it.htm</a> |
| Article 3.4 (German):  | <a href="http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-de.htm">http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-de.htm</a> |
| Article 3.4 (Spanish): | <a href="http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-es.htm">http://danielgobert.free.fr/orga/regl-orga-es.htm</a> |

And as there are 105 Dutch members now, a 5<sup>th</sup> and last GIO has been appointed for the Netherlands. So we welcome Coen Schillemans, already since a long time in the GIO's mailing list but waiting for a free place.



We also have a 55<sup>th</sup> Spanish member and well, a third GIO's Spanish member is required. Perhaps, the first Spanish subscribed in the challenge, Luis-Miguel sainz-Peña Wait and see !

- b) Our very active Polish member Polish member Michal Ksiazkiewicz has prepared for us an excellent page (Polish language but with height profiles, map and nice pictures) about Slovakia and Poland. Look at: <http://www.podjazdy.ovh.org/szosa.html>
- c) Back from holidays, some members have send us very interesting information and precisions about some BIGs
- The real name of the BIG nr 542 is not Aula-Chia but **HAUTA-CHIA** (sometimes Auta-Chia) [O.Dupeyroux]
  - BIG nr 608, called **Fiss**, was a climb leading to Fiss, village, on a surfaced road and then to Fisserjoch, pass, on a bad gravelled road. Now, the pass is under work for surfacing the whole section. It's now surfaced until 1750m over the sea. [M.Ksiazkiewicz]
  - BIG nr 645, Poludniger Alm, is badly covered after **Egger Alm** which is just a little lower but with a long unuseful distance. The profile in "Salite" shows it. We'd better to stop it at Egger Alm. [E.Lucas]
  - BIG nr 673, **Auf der Schanz** hasn't the right name for the top. Auf der Schanz is a pass, a little lower (1171m), and the mount is higher at 1250m in a place without a name near Fuchsbauer and just up the cross Zeller-Kreuz (1232m) [E.Lucas]
  - BIG nr 601, Millrütli, has a mistake in its name. Searching in Google, you'll find a number of pages about the **Millrütte**.
  - BIG nr 626, Neues-Luckner Haus, is difficult to name exactly. The road called "Kalser Glocknerstrasse" leads to an hostel called **Lucknerhaus**. No "neues" in the name, but thanks to Internet, it's the name "Neues Lucknehaus" that appears mainly.

d) And back from holidays, some members wrote and shaped beautiful pages about their BIGs:

- Olivier Dupeyroux on:
  - BIG 538: Lago di Luzzzone (French language but with nice pictures):  
[http://panneauxcols.free.fr/Panneau\\_du\\_mois/09-2006-lagoluzzzone.htm](http://panneauxcols.free.fr/Panneau_du_mois/09-2006-lagoluzzzone.htm)
  - BIG 578: Barrage de la Grande Dixence (Active pictures only):  
[http://panneauxcols.free.fr/Cols\\_en\\_photos/005-Dixence.htm](http://panneauxcols.free.fr/Cols_en_photos/005-Dixence.htm)
- Martin Kool, Hans Koedijker & Philip Hul on BIGs in the following regions:
  - Eifel (Dutch language but with pictures):  
<http://www.geocities.com/martinkool/2006Eifel.html>
  - Luxemburg:  
<http://www.geocities.com/martinkool/2006Luxemburg.html>
  - High Alps:  
<http://www.geocities.com/martinkool/2006HautesAlpes.html>
- André Rudaz on BIG 706: Monte Bondone (French language but mainly pictures)  
<http://web.ticino.com/rudaz/Bondone.htm>
- Daniel Gobert on the Eastern Pyrenees:  
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/voyages2006/pyrorient.htm>
- Kevin Speed also in Pyrenees and northern Spain for an incredible long tour  
[http://f1.grp.yahoofs.com/v1/sJAuRThlleW1cnVf0lj7xji4p5TpntsVmGEwR2pkpzHo\\_c7Vm7oW\\_TY7h\\_M64EQweFigrl8pfSa3q8oymom6/BIG%20OCD%20Sep2006.doc](http://f1.grp.yahoofs.com/v1/sJAuRThlleW1cnVf0lj7xji4p5TpntsVmGEwR2pkpzHo_c7Vm7oW_TY7h_M64EQweFigrl8pfSa3q8oymom6/BIG%20OCD%20Sep2006.doc)

e) Since the 1st of January, there are presently about 90 new members in the BIG's challenge. It's a record and there are still 2 months to go - perhaps will we reach the round number of 100 this year? Check out the 2006 new members' listing on:

<http://users.swing.be/danielgobert/big/classgauche-new.htm>

f) Our member, Paul Sintzoff, attached to the university Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium in the science's department, is riding a long 6 months travel since July from Belgium to central Asia, with a cycling friend called Marco. You can follow his adventures in a special website:  
<http://www.brumandu.be/>. A mail from any BIG's member in the guestbook is welcome!

The news above can also be found on our webpage:

<http://users.swing.be/danielgobert/actu2006.htm>

## **2. BIG Changes.**

As already mentioned in the previous newsletter, there is major work ongoing to enhance our precious list of 1,000 climbs. Some zones have been definitely defined as DZ (definitive zones) : they cover above 800 present BIGs.

It means that those BIGs will never change at all anymore, except for some very exceptional event. Some other zones have been marked as TZ (Temporary Zones) and these are the zones that over the coming two years we will work on to be able to mark them as DZ (Definitive Zones) at the end of the year 2007.

The reasons of those TZ are several and varied, and above all coming from historical errors or unknown countries before. Those approximately 150 BIGs are still uncertain and among them, there will be a few changes to get the list fit and well. But only a small part of them will move , obviously.

After voting by the GIOs, a 2/3 majority has to be given for the changes inside, before a zone is marked as TZ,. Here is the list of the zones that are still marked as TZ after the votation. Some of the TZs may surprise you, some of them surprised me that's for sure :

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Zone 1A: | Iceland (2006)  |
| Zone 4   | Germany (2006)  |
| Zone 6I  | Portugal (2007)   |
| Zone 9G  | Italy, Apennini Sud (2007)  |
| Zone 9H  | Italy, Sicily (2007)  |
| Zone 9I  | Italy, Sardinia (2007)  |
| Zone 10B | Ukraine (2007)  |
| Zone 10E | Hungary (2007)  |
| Zone 11B | Croatia (2007)  |
| Zone 11C | Bosnia (2007)   |
| Zone 11D | Former Yugoslavia (Will be split into Serbia and Montenegro) (2007) |
| Zone 11E | Macedonia (2007)  |
| Zone 11F | Greece (2006)   |
| Zone 11H | Turkey will be moved to zone 12 (2007)                              |

Work for end of 2006 will focus on Iceland, Germany and Greece to make DZs of these zones after they were voted as TZs.

The result of those votes will appear in an excel file that we'll attach to the next newsletter. You'll have in front of your eyes the "listing of 1.000 updated" for your next claims in 2007. At the end of the following year, you'll have the same excel file with the votes of next year and this will be THE DEFINITE FULL LISTING OF 1.000 for a long time (except just like written here up exceptional events – see the rules – no more numerous changes).

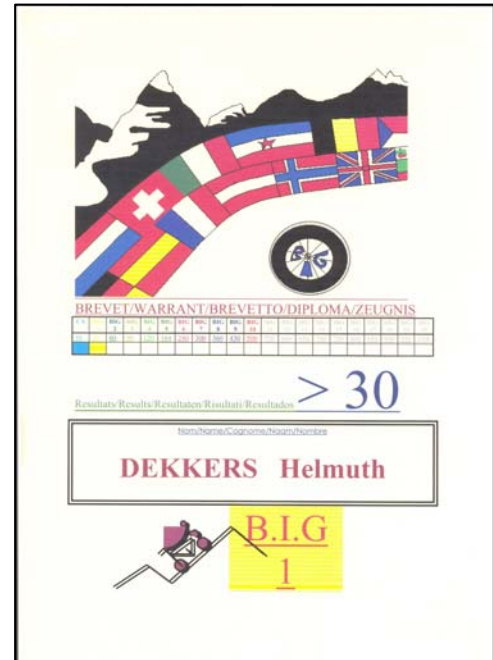
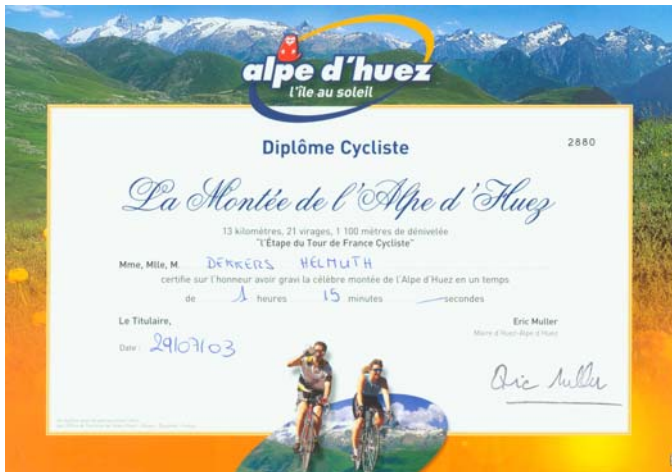
### **3. Contest.**

Yes, the BIG challenge is writing out a contest. So what is this contest all about? Well, as you know the BIG hands out certificates, if you have subscribed to that, when you have reached a certain level. The following levels exist:

|             |           |  |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| BIG 20      | 1000 BIGs | <b>B.E.G. / Extreme Cyclo-climber</b>  |
| BIG 19      | 950 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 18      | 900 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 17      | 850 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 16      | 800 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 15      | 750 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 14      | 700 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 13      | 650 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 12      | 600 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 11      | 550 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 10      | 500 BIGs  | <b>B.A.G / Adventurous Cyclo-climber</b>   |
| BIG 09      | 430 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 08      | 360 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 07      | 300 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 06      | 240 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 05      | 164 BIGs  |  |
|             |           | <b>B.I.G / Number of BIGs in memory of<br/>Raymond Mayeur, deceased at this score.</b> |
| BIG 04      | 120 BIGs  |  |
| BIG 03      | 90 BIGs   |  |
| BIG 02      | 60 BIGs   |  |
| BIG 01      | 30 BIGs   |  |
| C.A WELCOME | 10 BIGs   |  |

For the members who have never seen the certificates, look at the picture to the right. As you can see, it doesn't look that fancy. We think that nowadays it must be possible to have certificates that look a lot better.

I have an example, see picture to the left, of a more modern certificate that you can ask for when you have climbed 'l' Alpe d'Huez at the Tourist Office of Alpe d'Huez



So, we challenge you to design a new certificate. And your reward will be that your design will be highlighted in one of the coming newsletters and on the BIG's webpage with full credits of course for the work done. And I see it as an honour also that the certificate you designed will be sent to all members who have subscribed for a certificate and who have reached one of the levels above. We will also put the credits in small characters on the certificate so it is known to all members who designed the new certificate.

And besides the certificate we are thinking of rewarding B.A.G. members (>500 BIGs) with an additional gift. So here is the second contest: To come up with an idea of a gift for B.A.G. members. The gift can basically be anything but bear in mind that as the BIG does not have a BIG budget. So please specify what the costs of the gift will be for the BIG.

An idea could be a kind of a print that shows what the BIG challenge is about and what the BAG member had to do to get the title Adventurous Cyclo-climber. But it also could be a statue or a trophy that represents the BIG and BAG. Let your creativity free and help us out!

We of course hope to get a lot of ideas and will keep you up to date on the results in the newsletters to come. Will the BAG's gift soon wear your name ?

#### **4. 2006 Claims.**

Just a reminder, you can register your 2206 claims between the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2006 through the official BIG website. Checkout the previous newsletter for the details or drop me a mail <mailto:phme.dekkers@zonnet.nl> if you want to receive the details by mail.

To recall the useful files :

- The official form required to send your claims 2006 :  
<http://users.swing.be/sw202779/formularK.htm>
- The general classification updated with those claims :  
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/classif2006.htm>
- The names of the members having sent their claims 2006 :  
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/result2006.htm>
- The statistics, the new “warranted”, the full series :  
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/stats2006.htm>
- And last, but not least, exceptional overview, all the names of the BIGs climbed by all our members during the year 2006, country by country. Who has gone where ? See there :  
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/whowhere2006.htm>

#### **5. Annual review.**

Just like each year since about 20 years, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March will see in your aerial post-box the BIG's review inside it. It will contain all what has happened with the challenge during this season, the texts with your adventures, the general classifications, the announcements and informations, the rendezvous' for next year, the explanations about the changes, everything, everything about the BIG. Here is an overview of all the of those reviews since 20 years:  
<http://users.belgacom.net/bn014220/articlesrevues.htm>

Small note: you must be a “paying member” and send 10 € into one of the BIG's counts for receiving it at home. This review lives through your texts and pictures. Hans Koedijker and Martin Kool, official managers of the BIG's review  
<mailto:mm.kool@quicknet.nl> or <mailto:h.koedijker@publishing.audax.nl> are waiting your texts and pictures with great interest.

## 5. About a BIG.

And again we continue our trip eastwards. This time to a BIG in Bulgaria. It's BIG 875: Mount Snezhanska. Here are some details of this BIG. Summit at 1884m, foot at 1213m so the number of altimeters is 671m and 696 Europoints.



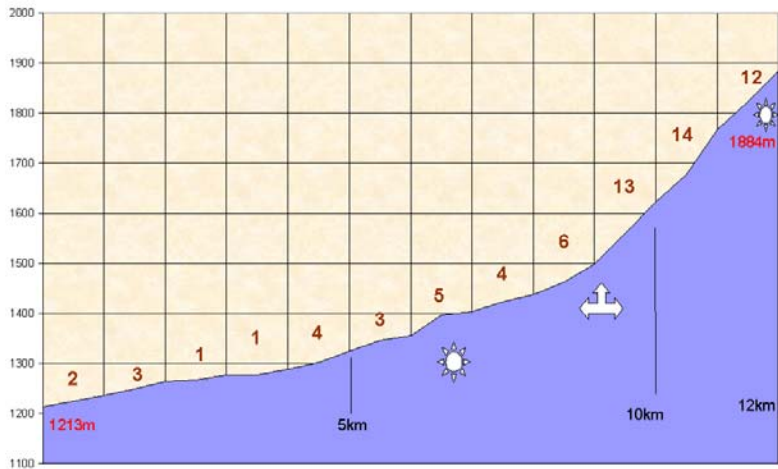
**Snezhanka Tower** (кула „Снежанка“) is a 156-metre-high television tower built of reinforced concrete with an observation deck near Pamporovo Bulgaria. Snezhanska Tower is situated on Snezhanka Peak, at 1928 m above sea level.. The tower has a café with a panoramic view of the Rhodope (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodopes>) the Rila (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rila>) and the Pirin Mountains ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirin Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirin_Mountains)) even the Aegean Sea being visible on a clear day.

### **Pamporovo**

In 'The mountains of Orpheus', as some call the Rhodopes, at the feet of Snezhanska peak, lies one of the oldest Bulgarian resorts – Pamporovo, founded in 1933. Its name derives from the Old Bulgarian word “pampor”, which means “caravan”. According to legend, the trade caravans from the White Sea to south-western Thrace passed through Pamporovo. A local landlord, who built winter shelters for the caravans, was called Pampor, and his lands Pamporov's. So, to this day, the name of the area remained Pamporovo.

### **North-Western ascent**

The Snezhanska 's mount is an easy goal for the eyes : the top tower is high. It dominates the top ground area where chairlifts, link from the winter resort called Pamporovo to its skiing areas, show the difference between the old way of life and the new one. A very modern chairlift on one side versus a very old one on the other side : that's Bulgaria. The road begins slowly from the nice village Stojkite. Just after the 6<sup>th</sup> kilometer a small steep zone appears. In the crossroad, just afterwards, in Pamporovo, turn to the right and go on slowly up until the Roozen pass. At this place, there is a downhill in front of us to Smoljan, but for the BIG's climb, we have to turn another time to the right and use a narrower road with sometimes holes and gravels. Suddenly, walls appear and gradients are very high. At one kilometer from the top, a left curve offers the similar picture as Huy's Wall in Belgium.



At the crossroad of the Roozen pass, the flat tyres are numerous, linked to the downhill from Snežhanska on a narrow road with many holes in some areas. Our Bulgarian guide, Anton asks how to repara these. Eric Lucas, in blue jersey, came just riding down through the holes with an average speed of about 70 km an hour without...flat tyres. Daniel Gobert, in yellow and blue jersey, and Bernard, in white-grey jersey, back turned to the photograph, are looking to Luc Willem and Johan Verlaet's works. Afterwards, one will go down on the left to go to climb the Golyam Perelik.



## **Bulgarian culinary speciality**

### **Ralitsa's Famous Snezhanka Salad**

Snezhanska (pronounced "snezh-ON-ka") is the Bulgarian name for Snow-White, of seven-dwarfs fame. I suppose this salad gets its name from the whiteness of the yogurt, but I'm not certain. Any Bulgarian philologists out there who can clear this up? Anyway, I'm particularly fond of Snezhanska with pickles, although it's usually served in restaurants with cucumbers. Try it both ways.

Here's Rali's recipe...

### **What you need:**

- 1 liter of plain yogurt (two regular containers in Bulgaria)
- 1/2 kg pickles or cucumbers or mixed
- 1-2 tablespoonfuls oil
- 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice
- 1 teaspoonful seasoned salt (like "Vegeta") or salt (use no salt if you are using salty pickles)
- 2-3 tablespoonfuls chopped dill
- 2-3 cloves crushed garlic
- 2-3 spoonfuls ground walnuts

### **How to make it:**

Strain the yogurt (if it's thick American yogurt, use about 1/2 liter and skip the straining), and cut the pickles/cucumbers into tiny cubes. Mix all the ingredients except for the walnuts. Sprinkle the walnuts on top of the salad. Enjoy!

## **6. Rendezvous 2007**

In May-June 2007 (not yet fixed), a big, big rendezvous of BIG will take place in Trento (Italy). In a common way, mixing their organization, the UIC (international cycloclimbing union based in Italy) and BIG (Us !) will meet together at the foot of the Monte Bondone for two, three or four days (details in the next newsletter). There will be only one rendezvous in 2007, but a big one. We are hoping very hard that you'll come to visit us and to enjoy together some great adventures on the slopes of the Trentino climbs.

The wellknown review "cicloturismo" has already announced this great event. Don't miss it! The text is available on : <http://danielgobert.free.fr/presse.htm>

## **7. Conclusion:**

So you're up to date now and are aware of the ongoing changes as I described in the introduction. And that's where a newsletter is for.

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](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en).*

*Cette Newsletter du BIG est en Anglais ou Français seulement. Vous pouvez traduire ce Bulletin dans votre langue d'origine via des traducteurs automatiques comme: [http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=fr](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=fr).*

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