

# BIG's News Letter – 2011.01

## English Version

Edito: Behind every BIG man there has to be a great woman!

Songs are an important inspiration source for my edito's as you may have noticed. The title of this edito is based on a song of the Eurythmics that is called: Sisters Are Doin' It For Themselves. I have changed it slightly as I know that behind most BIG men there are great women that allow and support their men to go out and cycle BIGs. The reverse is true also of course! And this is an important point that we should not forget. It takes precious time to train, travel and cycle the BIGs. Time that we could have spend together with your wife/husband, children, friend/girlfriend or family. So via this edito I want to thank all the great women and men that support us! Support us to go out again in 2011 and to cycle BIGs or to become a Godfather. Thanks!

### 1. TOP 5 BIG news

#### TOP 1: BIG gatherings

Here an overview of the different BIG gatherings that have been planned for 2011:

##### 1. Official BIG meeting 2011: Corsica

It's not possible anymore to join this official meeting in Corsica that will be held from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June until the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. So look out for next year's official meeting in the Czech Republic and

##### 2. Crossroad: Provence

Now here is your chance to meet and greet other BIG members. The crossroad is held from the 29<sup>th</sup> of October until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November in the Côte d'Azur/Provence. The preliminary program shows that 12 BIGs can be added to your Palmarès when you have joined this crossroad. As it is not an official meeting, you have to arrange the accommodation yourself. But you can contact Pierre Chatel ([cyclodocus@wanadoo.fr](mailto:cyclodocus@wanadoo.fr)) / Dominique Jacquemin ([jacquemin.dominique@yahoo.fr](mailto:jacquemin.dominique@yahoo.fr)) for recommendations about the housing ("Le Golfe Bleu"), country, coming by car, trains, planes, etc. For more information on this event you can go to the webpage: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/cotdazlig2011/cotdazlig2011.htm>

It will soon be updated with more details so if you plan to go check it regularly.

##### 3. Regional Meetings:

After the success of the BIG Day last year, a number of regional meetings are held:

###### a) Hungary

On **Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May** BIG members can join the regional meeting in Pásztó where the Galyatető

will be climbed via three different sides in one day. Look at the Hungarian forum for more information: <http://big-forum.forumsmotion.com/f8-magyar>



b) Belgium

On the **Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June**, a meeting will take place in **Bouillon** just for the fun to meet again. Two tours have been defined one of 62km that passes the Col de Corbion and the Col de Sati. The 88km tour also includes the Col du Loup.



Parking is in front of the castle and at **07:17** there is **coffee & cake**. **Start of the tours at 07:45**. At noon there is a drink at the summit of the Col du Sati. And lunch at 13:00 in restaurant: Villa d'Este in Bouillon.

For more information for a place to sleep or where one can have dinner, look on: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/bigday2011/bigday2011-be.pdf> or contact [jacquemin.dominique@yahoo.fr](mailto:jacquemin.dominique@yahoo.fr)

c) The Netherlands

On the **Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2011** a sponsor/training Tour is organised by BIG in cooperation with [Cycling4Better](http://cycling4better.nl). This ABC (Alpe d'HuZes-BIG-Cycling4Better) sponsor Tour will offer two lengths: 70 and 100 kilometers, each one climbing the 7 BIGs in Dutch Limburg. The long tour will include wellknown and steep local climbs like Kruisberg, Loorberg and Pas van Wolfshaag to name a few.

The **start is at 10:00 at Villa Proosdij in Klimmen** and around 14:30, the event will end.

The subscriptions can already be made by sending an email to: [secretary@challenge-big.eu](mailto:secretary@challenge-big.eu) which includes your name, phonenumber and length (70 or 100 km). Or through the website of [www.cycling4better.nl](http://www.cycling4better.nl).

One can take part for free but a donation for Alpe d'HuZes is very much appreciated.

**Registration should be done before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April!**





## **TOP 2 100 BIGs in the world Tour**

It's time again for the professional great race's! The UCI links all these great races together in 2011 via one ranking called: World Tour 2011.

The mediatic aspect, or the professional cycling history, is part of our BIG challenge, among the three criteria and the 5 principles. The BIG scores for every climb take into account the number of times that a BIG appears in the great races.

If you want to see the approximate amount of BIGs for each of these races for the coming season you can click on this link: <http://www.challenge-big.eu/en/news/573>

Not in this list is BIG 262: Col de Serre-Mûre" (Col de la Mûre), But it was a decisive climb in the current Paris-Nice, with the arrival just down this slopy French pass.

Let's recall that if the climb appears at least one time in one of those races, the big has at least 5 points in the media score and 1 point more for each step of 5 new times that it happens.

If you want to know more of the three criteria and the 5 principles or the exact calculation of the score for a BIG, then you can find this in the previous newsletter:

<http://www.challenge-big.eu/en/page/newsletter>.

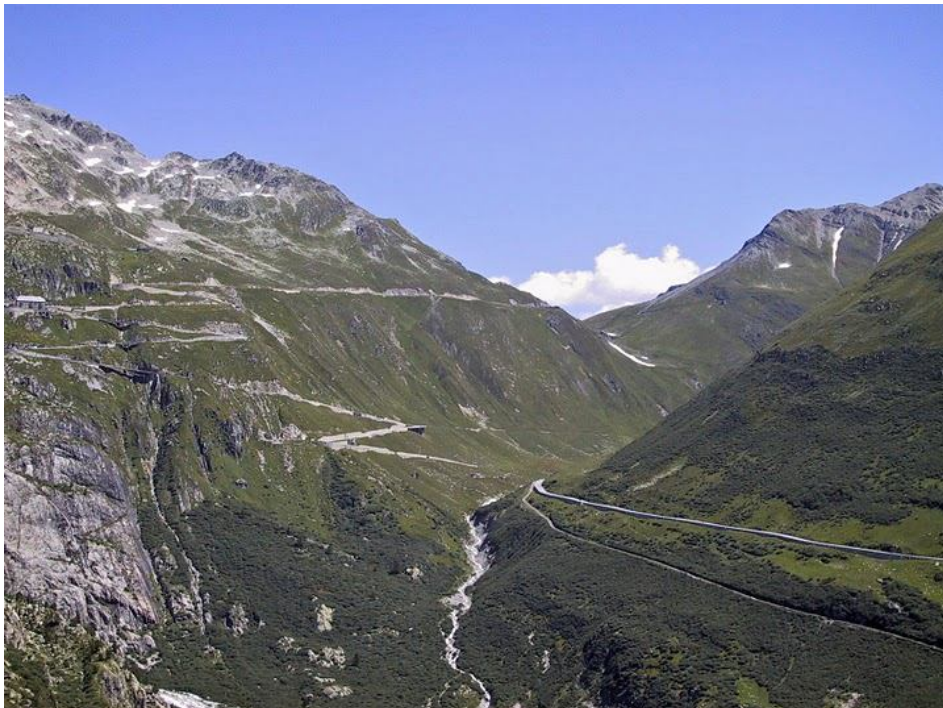
## **TOP 3: Videos and Diapos**

### **Gábor Györgyi (314)**

Have you seen the latest video's of Gábor Györgyi? The one where he cycles the tough Passo del Mortirolo three times in one day in 2009? He did this together with Mauro REPETTI who became Godfather of the Mortirolo a year later in 2010. And did you know Gábor even has his own YouTube channel where you can find even more video material of BIGs? You can watch find Gábor's YouTube channel here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/gyorgyigabor> - p/u

### **About André Rudaz (164)**

Or have a look at the website of About André Rudaz: <https://picasaweb.google.com/rudazan/> With many, many pictures! Amongst others you can find pictures of the following BIGs: Colle di Tenda (686), Lukmanier pass (587), Oberalp pass (569), La Plagne (284), Col du Parpaillon (304), Grimsel pass (No BIG), Susten pass (567), Nufenen pass (584), Furka pass (568), Sankt-Gothardpass, (585), Col du Sanetsch (559), Colle Sommeiller (679), Große Scheidegg ( 565) and Gries pass (No BIG)



View on the BIG 568: Furka pass (568) from the Grimsel pass

Jerry Nilson (166)

We also recommend Jerry's website as for all the cols higher than 2,000 metres he has added maps and updated the information. Here is the link: <http://cycloclimbing.com/alpspass1700paved/index.html>. He has also many tour reports that contain information on BIGs on <http://cycloclimbing.com/>. Browse around to get into the mood ;-)

#### **TOP 4: Climbs with permissions**

##### BIG 625: Hochtör:

Thanks to Ferenc Suplicz we received the important information that though the Hochtör or Großglocknerstraße, BIG 625, did not have an entrance fee for cyclists that this has changed ☺!

From May 2011 onwards, cyclists who want to climb the Großglocknerstraße, and that includes Hochtör, between 9AM and 3PM must pay 5 € to be able to ride on this national road.

The official reason that has been given is the aim to provide an insurance to the cyclists because the amount of cycloclimbers on this road increased from 5,000 to 20,000 during the last 15 years.

Thanks to Anja Von Heydebreck, we know now that there is a protest action where you can sign to protest against this exceptional measure:

[http://www.verkehrsplattform.at/thema\\_RadlermautGrossglockner.asp?site=901](http://www.verkehrsplattform.at/thema_RadlermautGrossglockner.asp?site=901)

And even more! It looks like this action was successful and that the Großglocknerstraße or Hochtör will be free for cyclists. At least for 2011.

##### BIG 834: Nikits'kij Pereval

The original text was found at <http://www.geocaching.su/?pn=101&cid=6068>. Here is a translation but note that it is an Internet based translation and hence may contain faults:

ATTENTION!!!

The Romanov Road is located in the Crimea Natural Reserve and the official access to it is limited. To gain personal access you need to get an official permit from the authorities and you have to be accompanied by the official representative of the reserve (stalker) which will follow with you in your vehicle. Alternatively you can visit the road as part of the guided tour arranged by the tourist agencies in Alushta and Yalta. Pedestrian tours in the Crimea Natural Reserve are not available.

To get the permit you have to apply to the reserve authorities at the following address in Alushta: 42, Partizanskaya Ulitsa (Street). The coordinates of the office are almost the same as the taynik (secret spot) named Dendrozoopark in Alushta.

Price for the visit:

35 grn. per person	(35 Grivnya corresponds approximately to € 3.15)
50 grn. per car	(50 Grivnya corresponds approximately to € 4.51)
150 grn fore the stalker/guide	(150 Grivnya corresponds approximately to € 13.53)

Note that the number of stalkers (guides) is limited. To avoid disappointment, apply for the permit in advance - 7-10 days in advance of the visit - at the phone No: 8-(06560)-5-04-40.

The Romanov road is an asphalt road that passes through the reserve and affords incredible views. It used to be free years ago, but is now patrolled by forest rangers.



Some more information on the Romanov road can be found here  
<http://www.tryukraine.com/photos/crimea/babugan.shtml>

#### BIG 244: Puy-de-Dôme

We recall that the road leading to the top of our wellknown Puy-de-Dôme is closed for any trafic until springtime 2012. A new railway is being constructed that climbs this old Volcano. For more information on : Puy-de-Dôme we redirect you to: [http://www.puydedome.fr/puy\\_de\\_Dome-51094.html?1=1](http://www.puydedome.fr/puy_de_Dome-51094.html?1=1)

#### TOP 5: Ironbig25 in year classement 2011

The first Iron BIG of 2011 was claimed by a Godmother! Her name is Aideen Collard. She is a member of an Irish cycling club that only includes women. She attempted to climb 25 times in one month the well known Sally Gap (BIG 64) near Dublin with the long straight lines and its terrible wind on the plateau. She succeeded! Her last climb she performed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Congratulations Aideen! For more pictures you can go to: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/SallyGap.htm>

And Aideen is not the only one who has taken up the Iron BIG challenge in 2011: Here are others who have already started, When will you join the group of Godfathers & Godmothers?



BIG 851 Galyatető:	Gábor KREICSI	(415)
	György DOMONKOS	(426)
	István ISPÁN	(471)
	Gábor VINCZE	(851)
	Aladár PUSKAS	(2812)
BIG 478: Monasterio de Cura	John ACHIM	(2170)

For an overview of the Godfathers and Godmothers look here:  
<http://www.challenge-big.eu/fr/users/godfathers>

And if you are interested in becoming a Godfather or Godmother yourself then you can find the rules of the game here: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/ironbig25.htm>

## The BIG is on line:

The following text is a translation of a text that can be found on the Kuitenbijters website (<http://www.kuitenbijters.com>) maintained by the Wolfs brothers (Bas and Mathijs, both BIG members). This website offers besides a number of descriptions of BIGs and other ascents situated in the Ardennes (Belgium) also columns about cycling. The descriptions of the ascents and cycling columns have been written in a catchy way and we are proud to present you a number of translations in the coming Newsletters so you can also enjoy these little pearls.

Kuitenbijter is hard to translate but it means the climb is hard (bites) on the calves. Kuitenbijters are short and steep killer climbs.

## Its all about the bike!

You could bet that if you put three cycle lovers together, all they will talk about is the cycling, for the whole evening. Despite the occasion for which they meet, or in spite of the company they are in, all the cyclists will talk about is their last ride or their next ride. It is a compulsion. Just as the Dutch find each other in the Costa Del Sol, or the English in Magaluf, cyclists are drawn together over the obsession of two wheels and a little bit of steel.

Sport brings people together, but cyclists have a particular kind of solidarity. Whatever the cyclist does in his day to day life, when it comes to other cyclists its all about the bike, nothing but the bike. The doctor, the builder, the managing director or the professor are all equal on the track. That is why cycling is not a science, there is nothing else like it and there is no right formula. There is only the perception and the actual experience of the pain.

What do these people talk about then? The track, carbohydrates, gears and cadence. The art of the climb, the descent and the show of power on the inner curve of a hair pin. They don't talk about gel saddles or luggage carriers, but apart from that, you can talk about anything.

Cycling is a cult, more than football or tennis. The football lover envies the striker because of his technique and the power of his shot. When you look at the Tour, or a spring classic, the cycle lover "feels" the pain, is disappointed at the team politics, and experiences the euphoria of crossing the finishing line. The spectator does not look at the racer, the spectator IS the racer.

So you see that at these social events every weekend, these lovers of cycling form a pact very quickly. One look is often enough to break the ice. "Hey, didn't I see you recently on a bike?" A smile of recognition and the eager nod of confirmation assured a conversation for the rest of that evening.

Although overflowing with tips and good advice, each cyclist peddles his routes in his own way. That does not stop him trying to convince non-cyclists to ride a bike. Like a missionary in Africa, he preaches the ignorant soul of the lust and virtue of riding a bicycle and their lack of it. Sometimes there are two cyclists and one non-believer. The non-believer does not get away without solemnly swearing that he will buy his first bike that week. No time to waste, after all, on Sunday we race again





# About a BIG: Pied Monti

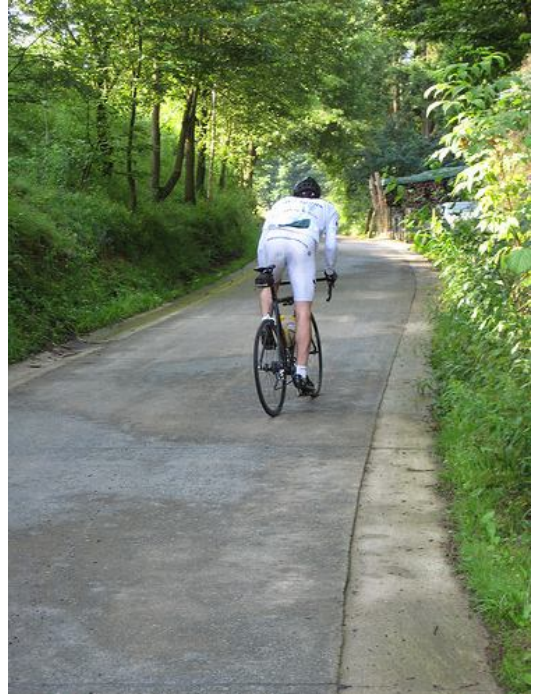
The description of this BIG is taken from the Kuitenbijters website (<http://www.kuitenbijters.com>). We hope you enjoy the writing style as much as we do.

"I don't feel so well ....." When I turn around, I see the ash grey face of my brother. Where only a few mere minutes ago, I saw a healthy blush on his face, that has totally gone now. At the foot of the climb, the bravado diminished upon looking at one of the steepest hills in Belgium! and we doubted what the hell we were doing this for on a Sunday morning.

It all began so beautifully. A weekend with the family in the vicinity of La Roche did make the cyclist's heart beat harder. Definately, when we saw the yellow arrows describing "Le Criq" ( a cyclosportive) beginning right in front of the door of our apartment in Mierchamps.

After a really beautiful descent to La Roche, the Pied Monti lay in front of us. According to the Encyclopedia Cotacol (written by our President: Daniel Gobert): "one of the steepest hill experiences of Belgium".

This is not a lie. After you have passed the bridge in Maboge over the Ourthe river, it's serious business straightaway. For whoever thinks to do this bastard on the outer ring....Forget it!!!



Pounding, pulling and with gritted teeth is the motto. Every line in the grey concrete is the next point that you aim for (how they ever could mould these concrete sections without the cement sliding of the slope is one of Belgium's best kept secrets)

After more than a kilometre, the worst bit is behind you. There is even a little descent in the climb to give the uninformed cyclist a bit more courage. Unfortunately.....(Or fortunately) all there is to follow is a provocative 1.5 kilometre climb at an average of 6% to the direction of Hubermont.

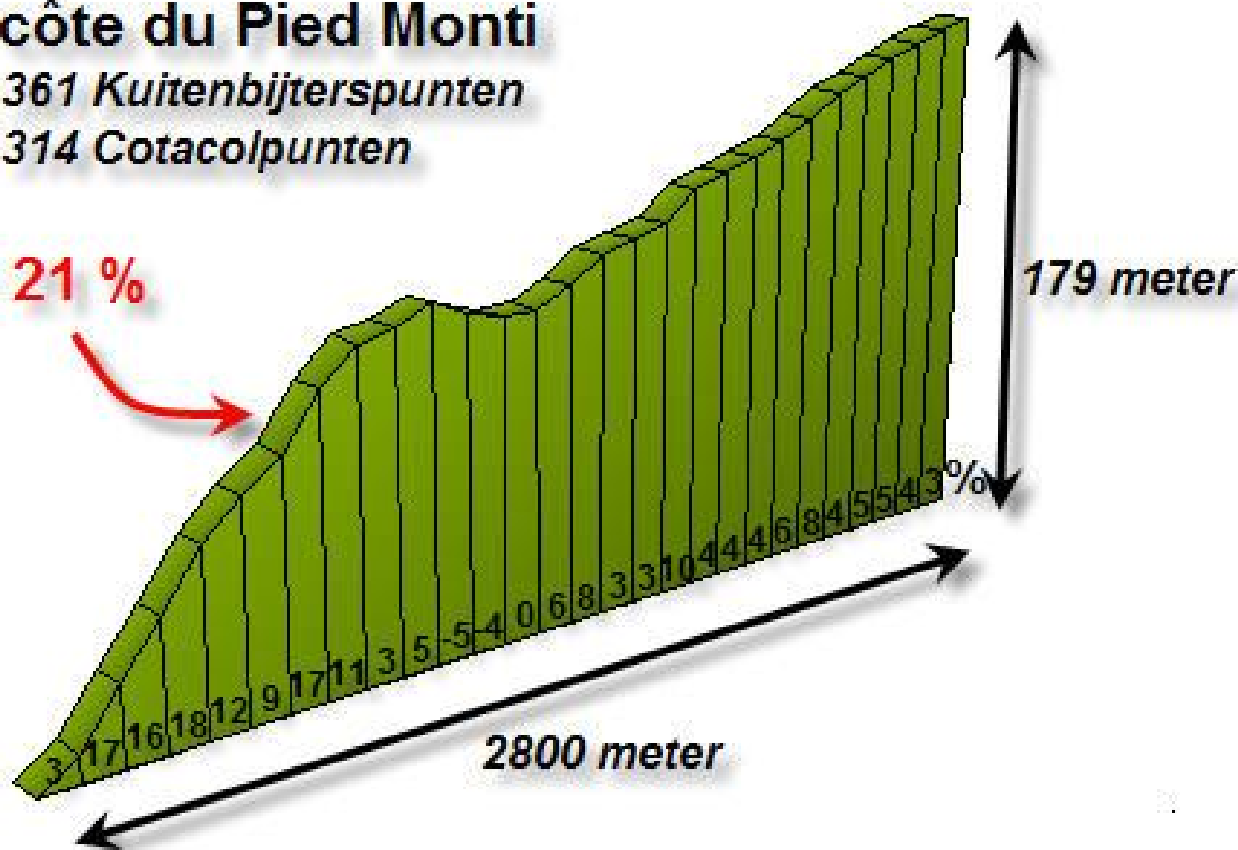


## côte du Pied Monti

361 Kuitenbijterspunten

314 Cotacolpunten

21 %



Part of the infamy of the hill is because of the Vélomédiane Claude Criquillon, a hard cyclosportive for fanatic amateurs and professionals without a contract, where the men are separated from the boys immediately, straight away from the beginning of the ride. She is on the 6th place in the Cotacol, and on the 44th place in the Kuitenbijtersindex and that indicates that it's best "to take a jacket off" at the foot of the climb....

The Kuitenbijtersindex is based on the Cotacol method, but does more just to the gradients that are hard on the calves and make the Ardennes everyone's Nemesis. The maximum gradient, or step down factor (also known as knockdown factor), is valued higher than in the Cotacol index and is the main contributor in the Kuitenbijtersindex value. The exact calculation of this index is the best kept secret of the Ardennes, but one can say with confidence that any climb with an index above 200 (and Pied Monti has an index of 361) separates the Boys from the Men. In other words it are the climbs with a maximum gradient higher than 12% that score the best in the ranking based on the Kuitenbijtersindex.

Original text by: Mathijs WOLFS (635)

Translation by: Marco PEERDEMAN (451)



## Conclusion:

A BIG thank you also (besides the one in the Editio for our supporters) for all the members who were so kind to reply that they read the newsletters. Though the amount of reactions was not so much compared to the amount of members we have, it was nice to get feedback and some encouraging words as it's for you that we make these letters. We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and we are looking forward to provide you with a new one in 3 months time.

***Regards, the newsletters team:***

***Enrico ALBERINI***

***François CANDAU***

***Gerd DAMEN***

***Helmuth DEKKERS***

***Jean GANGOLF***

***Joël GANGOLF***

***Daniel GOBERT***

***Claudio MONTEFUSCO***

***Luc OTEMAN***