



Ekipno kolesarjenje po Sloveniji
Team cycling around Slovenia

Rekreatur 2014 / FINAL REPORT

21.-24.08.2014

Kranjska Gora (Slovenia) - Tarvisio (Italy) - Latschach (Austria) - Kranj (Slovenia)

The 9th REKREATUR has now finished and I can honestly say that "**We shall never forget it!**". There were so many challenges before the start and such bad weather almost every day of cycling that we have just not experienced before. But I am happy to say that both the competitors and organisers beat these challenges together. Despite the fact that the organizers team were a little rejuvenated (well, except for motorcyclists and the two of us with Boris) practically everything went like the rain on the roads on which we cycled. Despite the fact that some details on the ground were not exactly the same as in previous events, we made sure the cyclists didn't notice.



Never before were the teams so closely matched and careful. They pretty much followed our warnings and in the end everyone came happily through the FINISH line in Kranj. And this is our greatest reward!

I am very pleased that the route across the border passed without any problems and that we saw all three sides of the national borders: "*something similar, something good and something surprising.*"

"*Something similar*" is that some secondary roads in all three countries are almost as poor as each other;

"*Something good*" is that the road signs in Slovenia are better than in Austria; "*Something surprising*" is in Italy, where a modest supply of checkpoints, earns significantly more than our Tourism?

But now it's time to briefly go through my impressions of the prologue and three stages:

PROLOGUE / 08/21/2014

The team start was memorable for the arrival of "pushmeup" cycle – a 16 pedal and 3 wheeled bike made by a team from Naklo, which is a village near Kranj. These guys put in a huge amount of effort and positive energy and also a huge number of volunteer hours to produce this "pushmeup bike". The organizers decided to give them a special award for the "most innovative team of Rekreatur 2014". At the start there was applause and a standing ovation for their leader Robert at the first bicycle auction as he promised to give the money collected to charity.



Like always, the teams started like cattle in sweet clover. Every year we are surprised that on the first day there are no injuries. This year it was even more surprising because we rode along the cycle path to Mojstrana and back. In Check point 1 (CP1) / Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana we were greeted with a delicious assortment from the Tourist societies of Kranjska Gora and Dovje-Mojstrana. The director of Slovenian Alpine Museum Miro Eržen stood alongside a host of assistants and helpers. The control question for registration in CP1 was how high is Vršič pass and how many turns there are to its top. The majority answered correctly (1611 m a.s.l. and 24 turns) the winning team blew Timing Jesersko, which was announced at the time there when it should be.



For their reward, Janja from the famous RATEČE Guesthouse "Pri Žerjavu" served a warm and delicious RATEČE carp. The orange belt for guiding a team went to the team Europap. But since they were not there to get their prize it was formally received by the 2nd - MTM Team. The evening continued with the premiere of the film Rekreatur 2013, which was again a great movie, edited and directed by Bogdan, we then continued with the analysis of routing 1. stage and ended with much dancing.

1st Stage / 22/08/2014

For me this day was the most stressful of all the Rekreatur we have done, although thinking about it, maybe the first Rekreatur way back in 2006 was worse. We had many things for the first time - nearly 80 kilometres of beautiful bike road across the 100 km route in the territory of Italy, escort of Slovenian ambulance, bike control away from the stage track and we had to control the riders on the whole route.



Also because of this I cycled most of the way. With the help of Nejc (first rider) and the team Jost.si we had a pretty good control over the situation. In the end the stage finished perfectly. There were no major problems and of course we had the obligatory rain. We met again in Kranjska Gora, the evening concluded with socializing, laughing and dancing into the late hours.



Winners of the stage were Timing Jezersko, the orange belt was won by the team of legends Jost.si having their best performance of all the nine Rekreatur events. Also this evening passed with plenty of laughter, dancing and socializing. And I dropped the first stone from my heart.

2nd Stage / 08/23/2014

This stage was also quite stressful and started with heavy rain, the temperature dropped and what I imagined how it may look my descent into Austria with Wurzenpass (19% descent + bad + wet asphalt road + rain = couldnt be worse!). But the descent passed without problems and injuries, Boris and Maja were a great help on the Peak line Wurzenpass at the real border crossing with strict and precise control.



There was a good atmosphere from all the teams which helped to release tension and they descended really carefully. The day continued as it started. It was raining all the way and no team arrived at the Finish dry. I was especially surprised by the excellent reception in CP4 - Latschach, where we were hosted by Joško Wrolich, Carinthian Slovenian, father of Peter - Paco Wrolich, once a great professional cyclist and member of the Austria national cycle team. Mr. Joško was very active and visibly pleased at our visit. I hope that we have made a good connection here for the future.

Arriving at the Finish Kranjska Gora was again a great experience. The teams competed between themselves to get an even more funny finish. You can't do that much with a completely wet body.

Do you understand? No? Come on Rekreatur and you'll see what I mean :)



The stage winners were the guys from the Europap team who are constantly looking for their member Ed. The Orange belt was won by the Radio Kranj Team.

3rd Stage / 08/24/2014

The morning began like in our best dreams. The sky was cloudless and sunny, with the mountain peaks of Razor and Prisojnik shining above us. The last day is always something special. Over the same distance as the previous stages, the teams spent almost 2 hours less time, despite the fact that we have 2 check points for the first time in a 3rd Stage.

But for the organizers it was another stressful day. We got the information that the finishing place in Kranj (Maister square) was almost half closed for construction works! This meant that all the work done obtaining consent, all the drawings and plans submitted were in vain! But that didn't stop us. Boris immediately drove to Kranj and we changed some controls on the cycling route so all would go smoothly. The checkpoint in Jesenice, which I chose for the

"selfish" reason that I was born in Jesenice and also the Radovljica checkpoint were in good locations, but unfortunately not fully exploited for the potential that Rekreatur cyclists could bring for the promotion of local tourism and offers.



In Radovljica there was heavy rain again, which started just as the check point commenced operation. The news from Kranj was the same - heavy rain, even on the last part of this stage. Despite the very heavy conditions all cyclist passed the Finish line happy and without any injuries.

First we announced the auction result for the "Prologue - pushmeup" cycle . The final price reached a remarkable amount and with loud applause was sold to an anonymous buyer. The money from the auction will be spent wisely. Half goes to children who cannot afford the cost of a school trip and the other half to a blind athlete swimmer to help prepare himself for the trials to paraolympic games.



The winners of the 3rd stage were the Vampi team, the orange jersey went for the first time to a female team - Hitre nogice (Quick feet team). Tears of happiness, which are the right of the winners attract their eyes and were given us to know that this time victory went into the right hands.

And when we said goodbye and "cheeeseeee" on the group photo, the sun showed up - the rainy season was over...well not yet!