

British-Croatian Society
Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 1086139)
<https://www.britishcroatiansociety.com/>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The AGM will be followed by an event

Time: 18:30 Wednesday 23 January 2019

Venue: Conway Hall
25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

Chair: Nicholas Jarrold

Present: A signing in sheet will be provided at the meeting

Apologies Snježana Torbarina Slijepčević, Stefania Grbčić, Celia Cviic, Paul Crawshaw, Božena Zorić, Vladka Hlupić

Attachments Papers will be circulated 1 week before the meeting

AGENDA

Item	Action
1. To approve Minutes of the AGM 2018	
2. Report on the year 2018	
3. Membership Report	
4. Accounts	
5. Appointment of Trustees and Committee Members	
6. AOB	

The following were appointed at the 2018 AGM. New committee members are always welcome.

Trustee Committee Members

Boris Marelić
David Davison
Flora Turner
Nicholas Jarrold
Paul Jenc

Peter Elborn
Robert Dolata
Suzanna Dolata
Tony Brand
Željka Tomljenović

Committee Members

Snježana Maclean
Tihana Borovčak
Alan Wilding
Nicholas Auger
Stefania Grbčić

British-Croatian Society
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Draft Minutes ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2018

The AGM was followed at 19:00 by: - A **new cookery book (the Adriatic Kitchen) by Barbara Unkovic.**

Time: 18:15 Wednesday 24 January 2018

Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, 21 Conway Street, London W1T 6BN

Chair: Nicholas Jarrold

Present: A signing in sheet was circulated at the meeting.

Robert Dolata, Nicholas Jarrold, Peter Elborn, Toni Donati, Paul Jenc, Chris Russell, Rebecca Tolhurst, Nicholas Auger, Flora Turner, Lana Đurđa, Tony Brand, Suzanna Dolata, Snježana Maclean, Željka Tomljenović, Alan Wilding, Craig Duncan, Ksenija Wilding, Maša Unsworth, David Davison, Edward Pivcevic, Tihana Borovčak, Stefania Grbčić, Mira Malović-Yeles, Svjetlana Vokić Đurđa, Simona Bennett.

Apologies: Peter Pejacsevich, Aurelia Young, Sunchana Johnston, Bojan Bujić

Item	Action
0.	Nicholas Jarrold welcomed members to the AGM. He thanked the Committee and briefly summarised the interesting programme held during 2017 as elaborated in the written report. Particular mention was made of the Chris Cviic lecture and the Calendar Croatia event. He noted that membership continues to grow, and is younger. Nicholas thanked the Embassy, its staff and the present and past Ambassadors for their continuing support.
1.	Minutes of the AGM 2017: were proposed by David Davison seconded by Snježana Maclean and approved by the meeting.
2.	Report on the year 2017: The written report was received.
3.	Membership Report: Referring to the written report Suzanna Dolata said that the membership position is good, with 138 members currently.
4.	Accounts: David Davison reported on the annual accounts written statement for 2016/17, and introduction of Gift Aid. In reply to a question about reserves David confirmed that the Committee had decided to maintain a reserve of around £2,500 to cover risks such as the Annual Dinner.
5.	Appointment of Trustees and Committee Members: The chair invited the meeting to reappoint the Trustees and Committee members named in the written report and asked members interested in joining the committee to make themselves known. This was agreed. Following the meeting Stefania Grbčić put her name forward. The Trustees and Committee for 2018 are therefore as named in the table below.
6.	AOB: There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1845.

Trustee Committee Members

Boris Marelić	Peter Elborn
David Davison	Robert Dolata
Flora Turner	Suzanna Dolata
Nicholas Jarrold	Tony Brand
Paul Jenc	Željka Tomljenović

Committee Members

Snježana Maclean
Tihana Borovčak
Alan Wilding
Nicholas Auger

Joined the Committee in 2018

Stefania Grbčić

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1. ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Our Society membership continues grow, events are well attended, finances stable. The organised pub viewings of Croatia's World Cup football fantastic 2nd place introduced new people to the Society. We raised money for a mental health project in Osijek.

2. BRITISH - CROATIAN SOCIETY A REVIEW OF 2018

by Peter Elborn

In its own modest way, we hope the activities of the British-Croatian Society contribute to a better understanding of Croatia in the UK, as well as providing a welcome opportunity to share our love of Croatia.

We bring people together in different ways. The World Cup was a hectic time for us organising gatherings in the Hoop and Toy, as well as the Horse and Wig, (what extraordinary names British pubs have!) to watch the matches. Social events over the year also included the traditional annual dinner, this time in the sumptuous surroundings of the Savile Club in Mayfair, one of London's old established prestigious clubs.

This year we also managed to combine the necessary, but rather dull, need to have an Annual General Meeting with a food and wine event.

Serious matters were also part of the 2018 programme. With the help of Tulip Siddiq MP, we met in the Jubilee Room in the House of Commons to hear Gabrijela Kocjan talk on the theme 'the cells that unite us'. The British-Croatian Society is, of course, non-political, but members received enthusiastically Tulip's passionate introduction to the event. She spoke of her own family's experience of political asylum in the UK (Tulip was born in Bangladesh) and her support for her constituents' overwhelming wish to remain in the European Union.

This was an appropriate lead-in to Gabrijela's talk highlighting not only her experience as "a fortunate immigrant", but also highlighting the many things Croats like her have been able to contribute to the benefit of the UK.

As he completed his first year as Croatian Ambassador in the UK, Igor Pokaz addressed the Society. In a relaxed and open talk he reflected on the issues surrounding BREXIT that have made for a busy year for him, as well as issues that he is still working on, such as trying to strengthen trade and investment between the two countries.

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Oversight of the planned renovation of the embassy premises to provide better consular services is also taking his time. Unlike most of our events, we followed his presentation with a glass of wine, but whereas we normally serve wines from Croatia, this time we had English wine. As you can expect, the view was decidedly that Croatian wine is better.

The 2018 Chris Cviić Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Vlatka Hlupić on the theme of her new book *Humane Capital: How to Create a Management Shift to Transform Performance and Profit*. The Chris Cviić annual event is an opportunity both to remember a fine contributor to Croatian-British relations.

Once again we have had a splendid avalanche of photographs submitted for calendar Croatia 2019. This year the calendar features just one image for each month so the pressure on the selectors was intense. The result is a wonderful calendar showing both the variety as well as the beauty of Croatia. For the first time, the exhibition will be in digital form and you can access it through our website.

For many of us, one of the highlights of the British-Croatian Society year was the performance of Klapa Nevera at St Ethelburga's in the City of London. The venue is atmospheric, the klapa group outstanding and the packed Centre for Peace and Reconciliation full. Klapa Nevera could only make a brief visit to the UK and to make one performance. However, they were kindly accommodated in Beaconsfield where their hosts introduced them to the local pub (claiming, not uniquely, to be the oldest pub in Britain). There, irresistibly, Klapa Nevera sang, at first to the astonishment of the local drinkers, and then to great applause. The British-Croatian Society has continued to send out information about a whole host of Croatian events that have taken place in the UK.

We have supported Croatian participation in the British Library's 'A New Europe in Film' so that Croatia was represented, as well as sponsoring the celebration of the life of writer Daša Drndić, who we worked with when she was in the UK for the London Book Fair.

3. SUMMARY OF EVENTS 2018

24/01/18	AGM with book launch "The Adriatic Kitchen". Barbara Unković
02/03/2018	Croatia image music & text. An evening of Croatian music arts & wine in partnership with Istros books. Held in the atmospheric panelled library of Conway Hall, to bring Croatian literature to a wider audience.

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21/03/18	Illustrated talk on the archaeology of Blaca on the island of Brač Croatian-British Society Split
21/04/17	Klapa Nevera: St Ethelburga's - world music venue. £20 ticketed and sponsored. A resounding success.
24/04/18	Exhibitor of new work Ljerka Njerš
22/05/18	Gabrjela Kocjan. Croatia's contribution to UK health services & international scientific presence. Guest of Tulip Siddiq MP. Held in Westminster Palace's Jubilee Room off Westminster Hall. Seats 60 ticketed, members only.
World Cup Tournament	Altogether 8 viewings of Croatia' World Cup success were held, and each viewing attracting around 70 to 100 persons.
26/09/2018	Igor Pokaz Ambassador talked about his first year in the UK
02/11/18	Professor Vlatka Hlupić speaking on management practice. Chris Cviic memorial lecture
08/11/18	London Book Fair. Daša Drndić Conway Hall library. BCS contributed to wine, 10 places made available free of charge to BCS members.
14/11/18	Projector exhibition of photographs submitted for the calendarCroatia launch.
16/11/18	Annual Dinner Savile Club Mayfair. Lady Aurelia Young speaker. £55 members & £60 non-members. Raised funds for a mental health charity in Osijek.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to grow, and has become younger. Payment by recurring standing order is increasing steadily.

	Jan-19	Jan-18	Jan-17	Jan-16	Jan-15	Jan-14
Number of subscriptions:	173	125	123	114	97	69
Number of individuals:	224	168	165	148	128	92

5. FINANCE

2017/18 turnover was £10,317 and expenses £10,021. Reserves are £3,867. The Committee decided that the Society should hold a reserve of £2,500 to £3,000 with excess funds available for grants. During 2018 we purchased a high quality digital projector for our illustrated talks. The Report and Accounts will be presented to the AGM for approval.

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6. COMMITTEE

We held 4 Committee meetings during 2018 plus email discussions, mainly to organise events. Policies were approved covering: Funding Decision Making, Risk Management, Data Protection and Safeguarding vulnerable persons and children.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The Society's web pages carry formal information such as event announcements, reports, our Objectives, Policies, Rules and much more. Through social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram we reach around 2,000 followers with announcements about our events and matters of interest to Croatians.

8. CONCLUSION

Tremendous thanks to our members who fund BCS activities with their subscriptions, to sponsors that support us and to all those come out to our events. Looking forward, events planned for 2019 include a talk comparing a career of diplomatic postings starting in 1970s Hanoi and closing in 1990s Zagreb; a talk on traditional Dalmatian Sailing boats, a piano recital and a possible Croatian Modern Architecture week in September.

9. PATRONS:

Robin Harris, Andrija Kojaković, Sir John Ramsden, Sir Nicholas and Lady Jackson

10. TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE

The following were appointed at the 2018 AGM. New committee members are always welcome.

Trustee Committee Members

Boris Marelić	Peter Elborn
David Davison	Robert Dolata
Flora Turner	Suzanna Dolata
Nicholas Jarrold	Tony Brand
Paul Jenc	Željka Tomljenović

Committee Members

Snježana Maclean
 Tihana Borovčak
 Alan Wilding
 Nicholas Auger
Joined the Committee in 2018
 Stefania Grbčić

Robert Dolata Secretary 16/01/19