

British-Croatian Society

Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 1086139)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2017**

The AGM will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the BCS Committee.

Time: 18:30 Tuesday 21 February 2017

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

Chair: Nicholas Jarrold

Present:

Apologies:

AGENDA

Item	Action
1. To approve Minutes of the AGM 2016	
2. Report on the year 2016	
3. Membership Report	
4. Accounts	
5. Appointment of Trustees and Committee Members	
6. AOB	

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 – DRAFT MINUTES

Time:	18:30 Tuesday 8 March 2016		
Venue:	Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, 21 Conway Street, London W1T 6BN		
Chair:	Nicholas Jarrold		
Present:	Brian Edwards	Ivona Grgan	Saad Aldosari
	Brian Gallagher	Josip Duda	Sir Nicholas Jackson
	Bruno Mikulić	Kristina Juričić	Snjezana Maclean
	David Davison	Lady Jackson	Suzana Dolata
	Edita Dolfini	M J Pindar	Svjetlana Vocic Durda
	Flora Turner	Nicholas Jarrold	Tihana Borovcak
	Robert Dolata	Paul Jenc	Želka Tomljović
	Roy Crass	Peter Elborn	
	John Ramsden	Jadranka Beresford-Peirse	Andrija Kojakovic
Apologies:	Bojan Bujić	Boris Marelic	
	Robin Harris	Marija Manteric	

AGENDA

Item	Action
0.	Nicholas Jarrold opened the AGM at 18 45 by thanking all present for attending. He highlighted the extensive and varied 2015 programme, in particular: the Embassy's inclusion of the bronze sculpture <apoxyomenos >in the defining beauty exhibition at the British Museum, the BCS photographic exhibition and the Annual Dinner. Particular thanks were given to the Ambassador and his team for their continuing support, to the Croatian National Tourist Office for their energetic participation and especially for the organising work of the Committee. Nicholas looked forward to excellent programme for 2016 and he thanked members for their support. Nicholas also expressed good wishes to Bojan Bujić and Robin Harris who are retiring as Trustees owing to relocation, and to John Beresford-Pierce who is standing down from the Committee, but remains as a trustee.
1.	The Minutes of the AGM 2015 were proposed (SD), seconded (DD) and approved with a minor typo correction: attendance of Mark Roberts.
2.	Report on the year 2015 Events: Adding to the written report, Peter Elborn, events lead organiser, introduced Brian Gallagher who spoke about the meet ups held during the year as an informal opportunity to meet and chat about Croatia. An informal dinner at the Polish Cultural Centre for Croatian National Day was also held. Meet ups have moved to the National Theatre, where there is space and a bar. The next meet-up is in two weeks.

3. **Membership:** Referring to the figures in the written report, Suzana Dolata said there was a positive trend of consistent growth and a younger membership, with more subscriptions moving to standing order.
4. **Accounts:** David Davison reported on the 2014/15 accounts which were approved by the trustees. Income was up, with extra expenditure due to computing and web costs. There is around £4,400 in the bank. The greatest financial risk is the Annual Dinner which broke even in 2015. Subscriptions and donations are now moving on to the Gift Aid system.
5. **Appointment of Trustees and Committee Members:**
Kristina Juričić from the Embassy team and Edita Dolfini from CNTO join the Committee. The changes to the Trustees and Committee members are as noted in the table below these Minutes.
6. **AOB**
Ivona Grgan and Edita Dolfini from the CNTO were welcomed to the meeting. Snjezana Maclean reported that the Saturday School aims to use the money raised at the Annual Dinner as part of an ambitious project to bring the Hedgehog's House children's opera to London.
7. Date of Next AGM
To be arranged for January 2017.
8. There being no other business the AGM closed at 1905

Trustee Committee Members

Committee Members

Brought forward from 2015

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

John Pindar
Marija Anterić
Tihana Borovčak
Brian Gallagher
Snježana Maclean

Joining

Joined the Committee in 2015

Kristina Juricic: Embassy

Joined the Committee in 2016

Edita Dolfini: CNTO

Leaving

John Beresford-Peirse - **stepped down from the Committee in 2015, remains as Trustee**

Sara Sabadin - **returned to Croatia in 2015**

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COMMITTEE REPORT 2016**1. EVENTS**

The British-Croatian Society organizes events for people in the UK interested in Croatia - and it tells them about events that others are organizing in the UK that they might want to know about. Over the year our email contacts heard about Croatian films, concerts, talks and workshops, performances, photography, sport, art exhibitions and more taking place around the UK.

During 2016 we organised:

1.1 Fishermen's Conversations

The British-Croatian Society year 2016 started with Chiara Bove Makiedo's film Fishermen's Conversations screened at the prestigious European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with a reception afterwards. It is a fascinating and hard headed film, portraying the life of traditional Hvar fishermen while exploring the damage done by modern fishing techniques and the degradation of much that was beautiful in Hvar through tourism. Chiara's grandfather was one of the Hvar fishermen and her film is beautifully shot and a moving tale.

1.2 Chris Cviic Memorial Lecture

Our return to EBRD in October with the Chris Cviic Memorial Lecture continued to present us with something to grapple with. Peter Frankopan, hot from having produced a best seller with his book The Silk Roads, talked eloquently and persuasively about his reinterpretation of history giving China both historically, and in the future, in a central role. Peter's interpretation of history moves the focus away from Western Europe to India, China and Eastern Europe. At one end of the silk roads Venice had a strategic grip that made it a dominant trading state. Today China similarly has far reaching strategic plans. The audience was enthused, many going on immediately to buy his book.

1.3 Glasgow University

We had a rare opportunity to offer something to our members in Scotland when the ambassador gave a talk at Glasgow University. We were able to invite our members to his talk Croatia, three years after joining the EU. The Society would like to do more outside London, though this may not be easy to arrange.

1.4 Tourism

Two events brought up important issues for Croatia – the development of tourism and the use of English:

Michael Unsworth talked about his relationship with Korcula and the creation of the Korčyra Baroque Festival, a spectacular achievement with world-class concerts in September each year. His experience raised issues concerning tourism policy in Croatia and the importance of creating high end, distinctive programmes to expand Croatia's appeal. We will return to the topic in March 2017 with a talk and discussion under the title tourism – is there a better way?

1.5 Translation

Will Firth talked engagingly about translating Croatian literature into English. This led on to a discussion that has concerned many of us – Croatia's marketing abroad is frequently and needlessly let down by inaccurate English and a seeming inability to see things from the point of view of the audience being addressed. The impact of what ministries, private companies and the tourist industry are trying to do internationally is often undermined by imperfect English. It should not be difficult to do something about this, but in the meantime Croatia's impact is often reduced.

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1.6 Euro Football 2016

Croatia Team supporters met to watch the Croatia play at the Hoop & Toy pub S Kensington which set aside a TV room for us to decorate with Croatian flags etc. The event attracted many people not otherwise connected with BCS. About 50 -120 supporters came to see each live match broadcast.

1.7 Calendar Croatia

Submitting photographs for British-Croatian Society exhibitions has proved popular over the last few years. Photographers, amateur and professional, from all nationalities have submitted prints, the only condition being that the photographs were taken in Croatia. This year we gave this a new twist. In addition to putting together an exhibition held at the embassy, the best photographs have appeared in our first British-Croatian Society calendar.

1.8 Split and Dalmatia Region Visit

Like our annual co-operation with EBRD with the Chris Cviic memorial lecture, each year we promote the Split-Dalmatia Regional Croatian British Society's annual talk on a theme related to Split, held at the Croatian Embassy. This year we learnt about the continuing programmes of archaeological site research, and plans for sustainable tourism.

1.9 Mestrovic Symposium

We supported the Mestrovic symposium at the V & A in 2015 marking the 100th anniversary of his 1915 exhibition there. Our support continued this year with the publication of the proceedings in the Sculpture Journal. This edition of the Sculpture Journal was devoted exclusively to Mestrovic.

1.10 Meet up

In addition to events, bringing people together is an important part of what the British-Croatian Society does. We do this through a regular evening programme of meet-ups, as well as our Annual Dinners

Our 2016 Annual Dinner held at the Queen's Club brought 82 people together socially and raised £475 for the Croatian Children's Village programme.

The 2015 Annual Dinner at the East India Club was attended by 73 people. £390 was raised for the Croatian Supplementary Saturday School. The school used the money to professionally coach the children for a music and poetry performance to the 2016 Bloomsbury Festival: Hedgehog's Home a story by Branko Copić about caring about the place you call home. What an excellent way to raise British awareness of Croatian children's theatre.

1.11 Publications

Our 2013 Welcome Croatia publication Mapping Croatia, detailing the many Croatian works of art in UK collections, is still available. We also have copies of the companion publication, Writing Croatia, subtitled books in English for readers interested in knowing more about Croatia. You can obtain free copies by emailing us.

1.12 Ideas

We would also welcome your suggestions for anything we may have missed.

1.13 Thank you

As always, our thanks go to HE Dr Ivan Grdešić and everyone at the Croatian Embassy for their help with our events over the year.

Our thanks also go to Croatian Fine Wines from whom we bought the excellent wine we served at many of our events.

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2. MEMBERSHIP

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

	Jan-17	Jan-16	Jan-15	Jan-14
Number of subscriptions:	123	114	97	69
Number of individuals:	165	148	128	92

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 Our 2015/16 turnover was £6,595 and our expenses £4,469. There is £3,895 in the bank. The Committee agreed to hold a reserve of around £2,500 to £3,000. This leaves funds available to develop new projects to further culture and education about Croatia. An essay prize is one possible idea. The full Annual Report and Accounts will be presented in full to the AGM for approval.

4. COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The Committee met five times during 2016 mainly to prepare events. We also check that BCS projects deliver our charitable objectives and provide value for money.
- 4.2 BCS receives occasional inquiries about working and living in the UK. Inquirers are directed to UK government web pages.
- 4.3 In line with Charity Commission advice we anticipate risks. During 2016 our web site was hacked. Through our web manager we hired professional help with an emergency fix and subsequently invested in a new web site platform with enhanced security.
- 4.4 Your committee is keen to attract new members. All BCS members are warmly encouraged to put themselves forward.
- 4.5 We have a good presence on the web, Facebook and with Twitter. Particular thanks go to Larisa Afrić who manages our web pages. Tihana Borovčak has worked ceaselessly to keep an up to date presence on Facebook and Twitter with support from Željka Tomljenović.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 We look forward to a new interesting and successful events in 2017 when we hope to be able to extend our programme to locations outside London. We are also looking to use our funds creatively to inspire education and awareness of Croatia.
- 5.2 Tremendous thanks are due to our members whose fund BCS activities with their subscription, and to all those come out to support our events.

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6. PATRONS
Robin Harris
Andrija Kojaković
Sir John Ramsden
Sir Nicholas and Lady Jackson

Trustee Committee Members

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

Committee Members

John Pindar
Marija Anterić
Tihana Borovčak
Brian Gallagher
Snježana Maclean
Kristina Juričić: (Embassy)
Edita Dolfini: (CNTO)

Leaving

John Beresford-Peirse stepped down from the Committee in October 2015, and as a Trustee in 2016.