

British-Croatian Society
Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 1086139)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2018

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

Time: 18:15 Wednesday 24 January 2017

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

Chair: Nicholas Jarrold

Present: A signing in sheet will be circulated at the meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Action
1. To approve Minutes of the AGM 2017	
2. Report on the year 2017	
3. Membership Report	
4. Accounts	
5. Appointment of Trustees and Committee Members	
6. AOB	

AGM 2017
DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The AGM 2017 was 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:

R Dolata	Simone Bennett	Tony Brand
N R Jarrold	Flora Turner	Snjezana Maclean
Alan Wilding	Paul Jenc	Kristina Juricic
Tihana Borovcak	David Davison	Peter Elborn
Ksenia Wilding	Suzana Dolata	
Svjetlana Vokic Durda	Zelka Tomijenovic	
Maria Templeton	John Pindar	

Apologies: Celia Cviic Nicholas Auger

AGM 2017

Item	Action
0. The meeting opened at 1835.	
<p>The BCS Chair Nicholas Jarrold introduced the AGM by thanking all for attending and for their continuing support to the society. He referred to a good run of events during 2016, mentioning particularly the Chris Cviic lecture, and collaboration with the Croatia British Society in Split. Nicholas thanked the Ambassador and Embassy staff for their thorough support and members of the Committee for their work.</p>	
<p>Looking forward to 2017 Nicholas anticipated a full programme and mentioned a talk by the new UK Ambassador to Croatia and an event connected with the historic presence of the Royal Navy on Vis.</p>	
1. The Minutes of the AGM 2016 were approved. Proposed Flora Turner, Seconded David Davison.	
2. Report on the year 2016: Peter Elborn referred to the written report. He drew attention to events held in Scotland and the intention to extend events geographically outside London.	
<p>Regarding Communications further to the written report, Tihana Borovcak spoke about publicity for BCS activities using Twitter and Facebook. 30 – 50 Likes and positive comments on the Page; 2,057 followers and 1,088 Facebook page users. A serious hack on the web page was resolved through prompt action by the Committee. Tihana proposed encouraging younger interest in BCS through Snapshot and Instagram.</p>	
<p>Discussion followed about extending the reach of BCS through social media and posting interesting subjects for example cuisine, football – Slaven Bilić. Inquiries have been received about running events in Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Oxford and Cambridge.</p>	
<p>Peter Elborn recommended that events outside London in practice need a partner organisation to assist with arrangements.</p>	
3. Membership Report: Suzana Dolata referred to the written report. There are 125 subscriptions, including families, which makes 168 members. The membership is getting younger, and the proportion of recurring standing order payments increasing.	
4. Accounts: David Davison presented the written Annual Report and Accounts pointing out that the BCS financial year runs from April 2015 to March 2016. There were no significant changes to key reporting figures and the financial position is good. Gift Aid registration is going ahead.	
5. Appointment of Trustees and Committee Members: John Pindar and Brian Gallagher are leaving the Committee due to work commitments. Alan Wilding and Nicholas were proposed and accepted as new Committee members.	

6. **AOB:**
Tihana and Snjezana Maclean volunteered to take over organising the informal meet up.
The Kazun in Derbyshire was the great pride of Nenad Bicanic who passed away on during the year. A plaque is being organised and it was agreed that BCS would host an event at the site.
7. There being no other business the AGM closed at 1905

REPORT ON THE YEAR 2017

We are a growing Society. Membership has increased, finances are good, we ran an attractive programme in 2017, and raised funds for charity. We are mainly London based, there are active members in Oxford and interest in organising Croatian cultural activities in Surrey, Manchester and Edinburgh. Our reach extends to over 2,000 followers through social media. Younger members are attending events such as the Annual Dinner - good news for continuity and success in the future.

EVENTS

During 2017 we organised:

10/01/17:

Flora Turner's illustrated talk looking at the art and life of Ivan Meštrovic was such a huge success when she gave it at the National Portrait Gallery that we arranged for her to repeat it at Europe House. Flora revived the memory of the art and life of this exceptional artist through a discussion of his portraits.

06/02/17:

As the UK's relationship with EU countries changes, we had the opportunity to listen to Britain's new ambassador to Croatia, Andrew Dalglish. outline the positive aspects of the UK-Croatian relationship.

20/04/17:

'A Great Love', the story of Olga Watkins' extraordinary life, was the subject of a talk when the Sunday Times journalist James Gillespie, who co-authored the book with Olga, was in conversation with Flora Turner. Olga Czepf's real life story is as good as any thriller. It is an incredible story of love against the odds. When the Gestapo seized 20-year-old Olga's fiancé she was determined to find him and set off on an extraordinary 2,000-mile search across Nazi-occupied Europe up to the barracks of Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps. It is also a very personal insight into life during the Second World War in Croatia, Hungary, Austria and Germany. Later in London Olga became a friend of Flora Turner and James Gillespie.

12/06/17:

The prestigious Athenaeum Club on Pall Mall was the venue for the British-Croatian Society's summer reception. It was a suitably British setting for us to say farewell to the departing

ambassador and Mrs Grdesic, to thank them and embassy staff for their invaluable help to the Society. It was also a chance to see inside a grand London club. The Society presented the ambassador, a keen photographer, with a copy of Gordana Johnson's atmospheric photograph of Battersea power station.

06/07/17:

Peter Sanfey gave the first Chris Cviic memorial lecture at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2011 on the theme 'Remaking the Balkans'. He returned to the British-Croatian Society with an update under the provocative title 'Does South East Europe have a prosperous future?' Peter provided facts and figures and, while not hiding the problems for Croatia, was cautiously optimistic - depending as always on a favourable international context and wise choices being made by the government in Zagreb.

28/09/17:

The outstanding internationally-acclaimed violinist Bojan Cacic plays Venetian, Croatian and Viennese baroque music. In conversation with the Oxford musicologist Dr Bojan Bujic, he talked about the baroque violin and played on a violin made around 1680 by F Rugieri. Bojan graduated from Zagreb's Academy of Music, then went on to study at the Paris Conservatoire and the Guildhall School of music. He is Leader of Florilegium as well as being much in demand as a baroque violinist.

10/10/17:

Several talks had a strong academic content. Dr Ante Batovic's book 'Croatian Spring' was the feature of a joint event with London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Dr Bojan Aleksov of SSEES and Dr Batovic ranged widely over a topic that is hardly covered in Croatian or English publications. The 'Croatian Spring' was the national liberal movement of decentralisation and democratisation that began in the mid-sixties after the fall of the vice president and head of the Yugoslav secret police Aleksandar Ranković. Dr Batovic's book chronicles these developments in communist Yugoslavia, placing them in the wider context of the Cold War and Yugoslav relations with the Soviet Union and the United States. Researched academic publications are clearly much needed on topics that are emotionally charged and Dr Batovic's work was welcomed by a large and interested audience.

23/11/17:

Following his hugely successful publication of 'The Silk Roads' and his Chris Cviic memorial lecture last year, Peter Frankopan returned as guest speaker at the British-Croatian Society's annual dinner at The London Rowing Club. The Club was founded in 1856. The Great Hall, the venue for the dinner, has sweeping views over the Thames.

30/11/17:

CalendarCroatia has become a popular annual event with the publication in November of a calendar alongside an exhibition at the embassy. Photographers of all ages, nationalities, both professional and amateur, have produced something that is both beautiful and shows Croatia in all its diversity. This year for the first time we produced a British-Croatian Society Christmas / New Year card from one of the *calendarCroatia* photographs. Thomas Moxon's photograph (shown here) from last year's calendar demonstrates the quality and imagination of the photographers who take part.

Most of our talks included an opportunity afterwards to socialise over a glass of Croatian wine. In addition regular Meet-Ups brought people together with a common interest in Croatia.

THANK YOU

As always, our thanks go to our new ambassador HE Igor Pokaz and the past ambassador 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.

We look forward to 2018 when we hope to be able to extend our programme to locations outside London. Tremendous thanks are due to our members whose fund BCS activities with their subscription, and to all those come out to support our events.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

ACCOUNTS

Our 2016/17 (April to March) turnover was £ £8,078 and our expenses £7,615. The Report and Accounts will be presented to the AGM for approval.

COMMITTEE

We held three Committee meetings during 2017, supported by email committee exchanges to confirm event decisions.

Trustee Committee Members

Boris Marelic	Peter Elborn
David Davison	Robert Dolata
Flora Turner	Suzanna Dolata
Nicholas Jarrold	Tony Brand
Paul Jenc	Zeljka Tomljemnović

Committee Members

Snjezana MacLean
Tihana Borovčak
Joined the Committee in 2017
Alan Wilding
Nicholas Auger
Stepped down in 2016/17
Brian Gallagher
John Pindar
Marija Anteric

PATRONS:

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