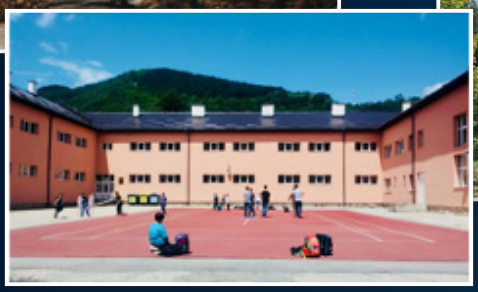
Gorazde Memorial Ride

Op Grapple Revisited

27th - 30th April **2023**



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In 1994 -1995 3 battalions of the British Army were deployed to Bosnia as part of Operation Grapple. This was the codeword used to cover UK defence operations in support of the UN peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia, including the deployment of British forces in Bosnia and Croatia from October 1992 until December 1995 as part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)

The 3 battalions' mission was to protect the people of central Bosnian town of Gorazde. 6 British soldiers gave their lives on this deployment, many injured, some suffering PTSD to the present day.

28 years later, in the memory of the fallen and the service of all men and women of the British armed forces that served in Gorazde, the UK charity GCF Bosnia (**gcfbosnia.org**) is arranging a charity ride from Sarajevo to Gorazde, ending the journey at the school that has been the beneficiary of the charity's work since 2012.

Funds will be raised for the school and for a new memorial to be unveiled in the memory of the fallen and those that served, designed in collaboration with the celebrated UK sculptor Gary Breeze.

There will be two travel packages available:

1. **Charity Ride Package** – open to all
2. **Memorial Package** – open to servicemen and women and their families that served in Gorazde

> Coming in, we thought it would be 90% about the ride and 10% about the experience and it ended up being the opposite, a great human adventure with a bit of cycling.
> **Marcio Souza**

GCFBOSNIA.ORG

Itinerary

Day 1: London Heathrow to Sarajevo; cycle team and group early evening briefing; free time and dinner, drinks in the Old Town; accommodation Hotel Europe, central Sarajevo

Day 2: 80KM cycle ride from Sarajevo to Gorazde, with a welcome celebratory finish at the primary school in Gorazde; prize giving and school visit; opportunities for exploring the town, followed by dinner and drinks in the town or the mountain lodges of Bijele Vode

Day 3: memorial service to honour the 6 fallen and those that served, with the unveiling of a memorial high above the town of Gorazde. This will be followed by a reception at Bijele Vode, followed by time to visit to aged observation posts, walk through the town and/or a scenic journey down the breath-taking Drina River to Visegrad. Back to Sarajevo for drinks and dinner.

Day 4: visit to the 1984 Winter Olympic village; transfer to Sarajevo airport - return to the U.K.

Charity Ride Package - £895

» 3 night's accommodation (double room/single) (bed/breakfast), transport/minibus, subsistence (snacks/lunch), purchase of a bike to be donated to the school.

Memorial Package - £295

» Twin room option £355 single room option £415 double room/single option to include 3 night's accommodation (bed/breakfast), transport/minibus, snacks/lunch.

Flights are not included - please follow these steps to book your flight

» **Step 1** Book your flights and inform us by e-mail at **info@gcfbosnia.org** that you will be attending.

» **Step 2** Send confirmation of your flight & details to us.

» **Step 3** You will then receive information as to how to pay for your trip.

» Transfers from the Airport to Hotel Europe will be arranged for those booked on 06:00 Austrian Airlines flight from Heathrow Terminal 2 arriving in Sarajevo at 13:40 on Thursday 27th April.

This year GCF will run two competions:

» **The Shaun Taylor Imagination Award 2023**

There will be four categories and the best boy and best girl will be chosen from each of these categories:

- Nursery years
- 5-7 years
- 8-10 years
- 11-13 years

Prize: Each category will receive a bike as a prize.

» **The Essay Competition**

Submissions of no more than 500 words, in English.

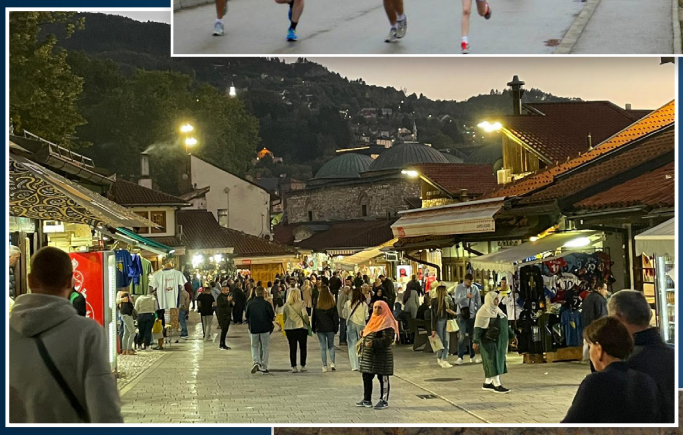
Title: If I were King or Queen, what would I do?

Prize: The two best entries - 1 boy, 1 girl, to travel to England for 4 days, chaperoned, with 1 day in London and 3 days at Bredon School.

If you would like further information or to register your interest, please email: **info@gcfbosnia.org**

For further information, please visit

gcfbosnia.org



For further details contact

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