

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 29 th August 2019, 7pm
Location	Fèis Rois Office, Dingwall
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Mark Sheridan (Chair), Malina MacDonald-Dawson (Vice-Chair), Fiona Callum (Treasurer / Company Secretary), Norman MacArthur, Ruairidh Gollan. Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Lisa Daines (PA)
Apologies	Duncan Chisholm, Shannon Cowie, Shona Henderson.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Action Ref. Number	Action	Responsibility	Time line
Item 1	Circulate dates for Norman, Shona and Fiona to meet to write the Gaelic Language Plan	Lisa	By mid-Sept
Item 2	Gaelic Language Plan to be written	Board Gaelic Working Group	By end Feb
Item 3	Invitation to Senior Fèis Concert - RSVP to Lisa	Board	By end Sept

Agenda Item 2019.02.01

Preliminaries

Mark Sheridan welcomed everyone. Fiona Dalgetty noted that it was particularly lovely to welcome Edith MacQuarrie, Elma Watt and their families to the Ceilidh Trail Finale Concert at Eden Court Theatre on 17 August. The evening was dedicated to former Fèis Rois Directors, Jock Watt and Duncan MacQuarrie.

Declaration of Interests

All Declaration of Interests forms for 2019-20 have been received from Board Members.

Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

Fiona noted that school lettings charges have been waived for 2019-20.

There was discussion regarding staff appraisals. Mark noted that it is good for staff to have a meeting with their manager as time for reflection. Fiona highlighted that appraisals are not related to salary and that, with such a small team, staff members have regular meetings with her and are invited to put forward suggestions for any training opportunities that Fèis Rois can support them with, e.g. staff members recently completing Gaelic and leadership courses. She will discuss with staff on the staff away day on 6 September.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Fiona Callum and seconded by Ruairidh Gollan.

2019.02.02 Reports and Updates

Management Accounts

Fiona highlighted some areas of the management accounts in her Chief Executive's report. There is new funding for a lullaby project of almost £60,000. The money approved for Lorient will be claimed retrospectively. Projects such as Under Canvas have shown growth.

Staff Reports including Chief Executive's Report

Fiona reported that Fèis Rois have paid freelance artists around £70k over 7 weeks this summer across various projects. Mark welcomed this noting that musicians recognise the value of Fèis Rois and of the respect and trust this generates. Along with our international work we continue to work locally on projects such as SOAR and transition events at Dingwall Academy. Our work with cared for young people continues with a weekend in Cromarty from 30th August to 2nd September. Fiona also noted that the new after school Fiddle Hive project in Dumfries and Galloway has proved so popular that all classes are full and we have started a waiting list.

Coming up:

- Our annual statistical review is to be submitted to Creative Scotland by 25th September;
- Fiona will attend the Shoormal Conference in Shetland from 18th – 21st September where she will present on the work of Fèis Rois;
- The Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM takes place in Inverness on 27th September;
- Fèis Rois nan Deugairean will take place in Ullapool from 21st – 25th October;
- November is busy with musicians from Fèis Rois travelling to Bucharest from 14th – 18th November, our annual weekend course for adult learners taking place at Badaguish from 22nd – 24th November, and Fiona attending the first meeting of the new European Folk Network in Brussels from 27th – 30th November;
- The Traditional Music Awards will be held in Aberdeen this year on 7 December.

Invitation Dates for the Board

Fèis Rois nan Deugairean concert, Strathpeffer Pavilion, 7pm, Friday 25th October. RSVP to Lisa.

Ceilidh Trail

Thanks to Christian for all his hard work. He has now finished his 12-week contract. We would like to acknowledge the diversity and inclusion aspect of the Ceilidh Trail this year.

CD Project – Celebrating 21 Years of the Ceilidh Trail

Aine Beattie has been working on this project. 21 artists have contributed tracks and we are planning a double CD with digi-pack and a booklet with a pre-release before Christmas selling for £12.

Adult Fèis 2020

2020 is the Adult Fèis' 30th year and, since the bank holidays have been moved and the schools are now in on the Monday, we are planning a creative response to celebrate in different spaces in Ullapool.

Festival Interceltique de Lorient.

The Board thanked Fiona for all her efforts. Strategic planning is underway for next year to help ensure the funding arrives earlier.

Strategic Plan

Mark thanked Fiona for all her hard work. It is great to see all the activity; the range, diversity and quality of the projects. TJ, having completed a summer course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, is learning Gaelic during her working week whilst she is at Kiltarn. Board members can be supported to do Gaelic language training at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, should they wish.

Executive Group Update

The Board members present reported that they found the Board development day in July very useful, that it was good to focus on their responsibilities as a Board and to bond as a Board.

Our Fèis Rois Gaelic Language Plan requires updating. As agreed at the Board Away Day, a time-limited working group will progress this. Lisa to circulate dates for Norman, Shona and Fiona to meet over the winter to do this and to keep Shannon informed.

Carbon Reporting

Marion and Ruairidh are to work together on this for the Creative Scotland report before the end of September.

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion.

Fiona introduced the update on the EDI plan. The new lullaby project will increase the opportunities for very young children to engage with traditional music.

Ruairidh reported that the World Ceilidh on the 24th August was an excellent multicultural event and that Fèis Rois was well represented by Grace Marshall playing solo fiddle and our Highland One World Change-Makers group also performing.

2019.02.03 Press & Publicity Update

There have been a lot of very positive pieces in the press over the summer particularly about the Ceilidh Trail and the Festival Interceltique de Lorient. A folder of press cuttings was circulated for Board members to read. Mark also noted the active social media presence of Fèis Rois.

2019.02.04 Date and Time of Next Meeting

AGM Thursday 5th December 2019 at 6.30 for 7pm, Coul House Hotel, Contin