



Date: 7 December 2023 at 7.00pm

Location: Dingwall Academy, Dingwall

Purpose: Annual General Meeting

Present: **Staff:** Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive) Teya-Jean Bawden, Christian Gamauf, Sophie Stephenson, Lorraine Aburrow (minutes)

Board: Jennifer Marshall (Chair), Alex Urquhart-Taylor (Vice Chair), Shona Henderson (Secretary), Norman MacArthur, Calum MacAulay (Treasurer)

Accountant: Jonathan Innes (Innes & Partners)

Potential Board Members: Megan Dale, Don Esson, Carrie Forbes, David Green, Tom Boyd

Members of the Public: Anne Shade (participant and fundraiser) Alan Stewart (parent of participant)

Apologies: Duncan Chisholm (Board), Chloe Bryce (Board), Grace Stewart-Skinner (Board), Morag-Anna Macleod-Mitchell (Highland Council), Arthur Cormack, Nicola Simpson, Calum-Alex MacMillan (Feisean nan Gaidheal)

Agenda Item

2023.01 Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Christian Gamauf and the team for the Ceilidh Trail's recent win for Community Project of the Year at the Trad Awards. Apologies were noted. The minutes of the previous AGM on 8 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record. The minute was moved by Alex Urquhart-Taylor and seconded by Shona Henderson.

There were no outstanding matters arising from the previous minutes.

2023.02

(a) Chair's Report

The Chair gave a detailed overview of another busy, exciting and challenging year. Sincere thanks were given to the staff team from the Board. The Chair's report is similar to the trustees' report which is published and available for anyone to read in the audited accounts.

The Chair highlighted several notable achievements throughout the financial year 2022/23 which included:

- The number of staff on the company payroll increased from 9 to 11 and the charity provided paid work opportunities for more than 200 freelance musicians and artists. We are very proud to be included as a case study in the first edition of [The Illustrated Fair Work Guide For Employers](#) in the creative and cultural sectors in Scotland.
- The return of the organisation's renowned annual residential music-making courses taking place at Easter (*for primary school aged children*), over the May Bank Holiday weekend (*for adult learners*) and during the October break (*for secondary school pupils*).
- The return of The Ceilidh Trail, a professional development programme for aspiring young performers, and an important cultural tourism initiative.
- Re-building the charity's programme of weekly traditional music classes in communities across Ross-Shire. These classes could not run in person during the pandemic and Fèis Rois has worked hard to grow participation post-Covid.
- Creating an 'Unexpected Garden' in Alness, which was also an outdoor space. More than 3,000 people attended 79 events between April and September 2022.
- Introducing a new strand of work delivering a series of weekend courses aimed at supporting fluent Gaelic speakers in S1-3 to continue to engage with the language outside of school in a fun and creative way.
- Releasing an album of music commissioned in 2021/22. 'Gneiss,' composed by fiddle player, Iain Fraser, celebrates the people, place and landscape of Dingwall, Gairloch and Ullapool.
- Continuing to secure contracts to deliver Youth Music Initiative workshops in 200+ primary schools in the Aberdeenshire, Dumfries & Galloway and Highland Council areas.

The Chair gave heartfelt thanks to the Chief Executive and staff team and all those involved with Fèis Rois; funders, musicians, freelance creative practitioners and participants. Thanks also to Norman MacArthur for serving six years on the Fèis Rois Board.

(b) Annual Accounts

Jonathan Innes from Innes & Partners presented the accounts and thanked Fiona and Lorraine. He explained that the deficit in this year's accounts compared to last year's was due to the timing of grant funding and this was perfectly acceptable. He said there was a strong balance sheet, strong balances and fundraising was underway. There were a couple of minor mentions in the audit. Jonathan was happy to sign clean accounts and a clean audit report.

The accounts were circulated and approved by the Board and Fèis Rois had an unqualified audit report ready to sign.

2023.03 Rotation of Directors

Clause 25 of the Memorandum and Articles states that any Director who has held office for three consecutive years shall cease to hold office at the end of the AGM, but subject to article 26, shall then be eligible for re-election. This applied to Alex Urquhart-Taylor and Chloe Bryce who were both re-elected by Calum MacAulay and seconded by Shona Henderson.

Norman MacArthur stepped down from the Board at the AGM and another, Kirsteen MacInnes-Meeks stepped down in November.

Five new Board Members were appointed; David Green was nominated by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Alex Urquhart-Taylor. Tom Boyd was nominated by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Alex Urquhart-Taylor. Megan Dale was nominated by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Alex Urquhart-Taylor. Carrie Forbes was nominated by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Alex Urquhart-Taylor. Don Esson was nominated by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Alex Urquhart-Taylor.

Jennifer Marshall was re-elected as Chair by Shona Henderson and this was seconded by Calum MacAulay.

Alex Urquhart-Taylor was re-elected as Vice-Chair by Carrie Forbes and seconded by Tom Boyd.

Calum MacAulay was re-elected as Treasurer by Alex Urquhart-Taylor and seconded by Tom Boyd.

Shona Henderson was re-elected as Company Secretary by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Calum MacAulay.

2023.04 AOB

There were no further matters raised.