

## BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2019, 7pm
Location	Fèis Rois Office, Dingwall
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Malina MacDonald-Dawson (Vice-Chair), Fiona Callum (Treasurer / Company Secretary), Norman MacArthur, Shona Henderson, Ruairidh Gollan, Shannon Cowie
	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Lisa Daines (PA)
Apologies	Mark Sheridan (Chair), Duncan Chisholm

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Action Ref. Number	Action	Responsibility	Time line
Item 1	Write to Donna Manson and Ward Councillors	Fiona	By mid-June
Item 2	Book a venue and dinner for Board training day on 5 July	Lisa	By mid-June
Item 3	35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – start planning	Fiona/Lisa	Ongoing
Item 4	Board to receive Mairi McFadyen article	Lisa	ASAP
Item 5	Invitation Dates - RSVP to Lisa	Board Members	By end June
Item 6	Confirm staff appraisals	Fiona / Mark	ASAP

### Agenda Item 2019.02.01

#### Preliminaries

Malina welcomed everyone. Mark (Chair) sends his apologies. We were sad to hear of the passing of Jock Watt who was instrumental in the founding of Fèis Rois. The Board also extended their sympathy to the family of the late Dennis MacLeod who, when living in Scotland, opened his home at Scatwell for an annual summer fundraising event for Fèis Rois. The Board congratulated the staff team on Fèis Rois being awarded Third Sector Organisation of the Year at the recent Highland Business Women's Awards in Inverness. Malina welcomed Lisa Daines, the new PA to the Chief Executive.

#### Declaration of Interests

In the discussion of Highland Council funding, Board members who are Highland Council employees declared an interest and sat out of the discussion.

#### Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Malina MacDonald-Dawson and seconded by Shona Henderson.

## 2019.02.02 Reports and Updates

### Management Accounts

Fiona explained the figures and the underspend. There were no further questions from the Board.

### Ceilidh Trail

Josie Gaitens has had a freelance contract from January to May to work on the programme for the 2019 Ceilidh Trail. Josie has completed this contract and is now travelling to Iceland to take up an internship for the summer. Christian Gamauf has accepted a 12-week freelance contract to deliver the 2019 Ceilidh trail.

### Fiddle Immersion Course

This pilot project proved very successful this year. 3 of the 5 participants came from California to take part in this month-long intensive course. There is a lot of interest in this for next year and there is clearly a market for this sort of event.

### New CD

Fiona noted that we have sold out of 'Fas' and now would be a good time to produce a new CD showcasing Fèis Rois alumni. Fiona will approach artists and she invited the Board to get in touch if they have any ideas for a title.

### Highland Council Funding

The Board agreed that Fiona should write to Donna Manson, Chief Executive of Highland Council, to explain the impact to the Highlands of the work of Fèis Rois. It was agreed that Fiona will also write to the four elected members of the Dingwall and Seaforth Ward inviting them to meet regarding the school letting charges.

### Under Canvas at Eden Court

Following the success of last year's event, we are programming 55 performance slots over 7 weeks this summer in the stretch tent outside Eden Court. The Board are invited to attend the launch event on the 4<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm. This project has grown considerably from a £10,000 contract in 2018 to a £27,000 contract this year.

### Invitation Dates for the Board

4 July 2019 - Launch of Under Canvas at Eden Court

17 August 2019 - End of Under Canvas party in the tent and Ceilidh Trail Event in One Touch Theatre

10 September 2019 – Kin and the Community Showcase evening

Please RSVP to Lisa.

### Staff Appraisal

This year Fiona proposed working as a team on how each team member's work streams feed into the artistic and creative delivery plan as an away day instead of an appraisal, but also allowing time for a half hour – hour long informal individual chat separately.

### Board Training

Catriona from Arts and Business Scotland is coming on the 5<sup>th</sup> July to deliver Board Training. Lisa is to book a venue and invite the Board to dinner afterwards.

### Carbon Reporting

Ruairidh reported on reducing the carbon footprint at the Junior Fèis, the target was to be 3%, we overachieved this by 25%. Next year it will be the Senior Fèis and then the year afterwards the Adult Fèis. Marion sourced biodegradable wristbands this year. We will also look into paper sourcing and landfill

reduction. Marion is to attend a carbon management day at Eden Court. The plan update is to be submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> September to Creative Scotland.

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion.

We are delivering on our targets in the plan. Some examples include:

- Continued successful delivery of projects in HMP Inverness.
- Fèis Rois musicians playing at the monthly HIMRA conversation café.
- The gender balance at the Adult Fèis with 17 female and 14 male tutors.
- We secured a contract with Country Bumpkins nursery, thus increasing the number of very young children engaging with traditional music.
- Growing our work with Care Experienced Young People. We currently have 14 people engaged in regular activity.

We were delighted to hear that David Nicolson, a young man who advocates for people with autism in the traditional music sector, is one of the first recipients of Creative Scotland's inclusion fund. David attended the Adult Fèis on a free bursary and we look forward to working with him in the future.

We are also delighted that Grace Skinner-Stewart, a harp player who has cerebral palsy, has secured a place on our Ceilidh Trail this summer. Grace gave an outstanding performance at audition.

Highland One World Project

Highland One World would like to start up Change-maker groups across Highlands looking at stories of migration. Fèis Rois have been approached to start a group. We plan to deliver an intense week during the summer using our commission, The Voyage of The Hector, which tells the story of people emigrating from the Highlands to Canada in 1773.

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021

Fiona highlighted to the Board that Fèis Rois will celebrate 35 years in 2021. She proposed some ideas for marking this significant anniversary, including:

- Producing a tune book with all of the tunes Fèis Rois has commissioned over the years;
- Organising a high profile dinner with music.

Lisa will look at dates of all the other dinner dance events through the year to see where we might fit in the calendar.

### **2019.02.03 Press & Publicity Update**

There have been several very positive pieces in the press. Lisa to send the Mairi McFadyen article in The National to the Board.

### **2019.02.04 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7pm, Fèis Rois Office