

AGM MINUTES

Date and Time	22 nd November 2017 at 7.00pm	
Location	Coul House Hotel, Contin, Ross-shire, IV14 9ES	
Purpose	Annual General Meeting	
Present	Staff:	Alison Lewis (Acting Chief Executive) Marion Mackay (Office Manager)
	Board:	Harriet Dempster (Chair), Colin Sandilands, Mark Sheridan, Malina MacDonald-Dawson, Norman MacArthur, Fiona Callum
	Organisations:	Nicola Simpson (FnG)
	Accountant:	Cathy Allan (Saffery Champness)
Apologies	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive on maternity leave), Conal McDonagh and Shannon Cowie	

Agenda Item

2017.01 Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted. The minutes of the previous AGM on 22nd November 2016 were agreed as a correct record. The minute was moved by Colin Sandilands and seconded by Malina MacDonald-Dawson.

There were no outstanding matters arising from the previous minutes.

2017.02

(a) Chair's Report

The Chair commented that Fèis Rois celebrated its 30th anniversary with a number of projects and events throughout the year and in particular it was an honour to be awarded a prestigious Landmark Award from Hands Up For Trad.

The significant social and economic impact Feis Rois makes by providing paid employment opportunities for some 458 musicians and artists was lauded, as well as more than 7,000 people take part in participatory workshops. In particular Care Experienced Young People who took part in the Music Box project and then had the confidence to go on and take part in our core programme of weekly classes and residential courses was applauded.

Rachael Duff's work on the extensive education programme was recognised by the Chair.

A particular performance highlight was a sell-out concert at Celtic Connections in January 2017, which saw the launch of the new commission, The Seer. Former Fèis Rois participant and acclaimed fiddle player, Lauren MacColl was commissioned to compose a 45-minute work inspired by the life and prophecies of The Brahan Seer. Fèis Rois also commissioned four further musicians to compose new music in 2016/17.

The Chair felt a further highlight was a Fèis Rois showcase at Scot:Lands on New Year's Day, part of the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival celebrations on 1st January which saw some 20 musicians perform to an audience of over 2,000 people.

The organisation's core work was highlighted with three successful residential music and traditional arts courses in Ullapool, as well as seeing further development in both The Ceilidh Trail and weekly classes programmes. We worked in more than half (17 of 32) of Scotland's Local Authority areas and won the Community Project of the Year category at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

International partnerships continue to develop, strengthening our work with partners in Romania and the renowned Festival Interceltique de Lorient in France.

The Chair thanked Stacey Toner for her continued work on the Highland Youth Arts Hub partnership. A new pilot project was developed in partnership with acclaimed fiddle player, Duncan Chisholm where a group of young musicians worked with Duncan on Kin and the Community.

The Chair acknowledged the contribution of volunteers, staff, the Board and the Funders to Fèis Rois in particular to Board Director Colin Sandilands who is stepping down.

The Chair also noted the losses of two highly valued and missed members of the Board; Maggie MacDonald and Caroline Hewat.

(b) Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts were presented by Cathy Allan of Saffery Champness. The accounts were approved by the Directors.

In her report Cathy advised:

- An unqualified clean audit report will be issued as all systems in place are appropriate.
- The accounts give a true and fair view of accounts at end of March 2017.
- Fèis Rois had appropriate reserves at the end of the financial year with approximately 4 months funding held in reserve.
- Suggestion to consider maintaining a fixed asset register and splitting it into the separate projects. Board agreed to action this.
- Board discussed reviewing the depreciation rate of fixed assets to ensure they're reasonable.

Cathy Allan commented that she had found Marion Mackay very co-operative.

2017.03 Rotation and Appointment of Directors

The following appointments and continued appointments were agreed:

After six years of service, Harriet Dempster (Chair) and Colin Sandilands (Company Secretary) stepped-down from the Board.

The following Directors were elected / re-elected:

Chair – Mark Sheridan

Vice Chair – Malina MacDonald-Dawson

Secretary/Treasurer – Fiona Callum

Director - Conal McDonagh

Director - Shannon Cowie

Director - Norman MacArthur

2017.04 Notified AOCB

There was no AOCB raised.