

AGM MINUTES

Date and Time	5 th December 2019 at 7.00pm	
Location	Coul House Hotel, Contin, Ross-shire	
Purpose	Annual General Meeting	
Present	Staff:	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Rachael Duff, Marion Mackay, Lisa Daines.
	Board:	Mark Sheridan (Chair), Malina MacDonald-Dawson, Fiona Callum, Shona Henderson, Ruairidh Gollan, Duncan Chisholm, Norman MacArthur.
	Organisations:	Siobhan Anderson (CS), Karen Peasnall (HIE).
	Accountant:	Coll Murchison-MacDonald (Saffery Champness)
	Members of Public:	Maria Sheridan
	Apologies	Teya-Jean Bawden, Andrena Ballantyne, Arthur Cormack (FnG), Shannon Cowie, Jennifer Marshall, Morag-Anna MacLeod-Mitchell (Highland Council)

Agenda Item

2019.01 Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted. The minutes of the previous AGM on 21st November 2018 were agreed as a correct record. The minute was moved by Shona Henderson and seconded by Ruairidh Gollan.

There were no outstanding matters arising from the previous minutes.

2019.02

(a) Chair's Report

The Chair remarked that this evening is a celebration of Fèis Rois, a successful organisation which has produced remarkable work and is recognised nationally and internationally as a model of good practice, whilst maintaining its grassroots work.

This year saw Fèis Rois named Third Sector Organisation of the Year and Fiona named in the BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour Power List. Congratulations to Fiona and the entire team for the provision of high quality participative and professional opportunities for people of all ages to engage with traditional music and Gaelic culture.

The organisation has grown its income by 10% this year and supported more than 600 artists and creative practitioners. It has increased opportunities for Care Experienced Young People and will continue to do so. Approximately 9,000 people took part in learning and outreach sessions, reaching more than half of Scotland's 32 Local Authorities. An average of 150 people take part each week in community classes in Ross-shire. The follow-through of young learners at weekly classes to Ceilidh Trail participant to professional musician is a mark of Fèis Rois' excellence.

The Chair highlighted figures for local, national and international performances and noted the opportunities which arise from these, such as the new partnership with The Calman Trust.

Grateful thanks are given to Scottish National Heritage for their support of the Ceilidh Trail, now in its 19th year (summer 2018).

Education provision, representing 29% of total income, has continued to innovate and grow year on year. Thanks to Rachael Duff for this vibrant educational and training programme.

The Chair listed several flagship events during the year including HYAHBèò, Under Canvas, Festival Interceltique de Lorient, and Kin and the Community. Notably HYAHBèò, in celebration of the Year of Young People, in which 7 young people were paid to coordinate the events and over 100 young artists and musicians performed to an audience of 5,667.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of Jock Watt, Duncan MacQuarrie and Dennis Macleod during this year. Our deepest condolences to the families of Jock, Duncan and Dennis and also to the family of the late Mrs Munro of Foulis, who was always a keen supporter of the work of Fèis Rois.

The organisation is immensely grateful to our funders, Highland Council and Creative Scotland, and also to Fèisean nan Gàidheal and HIE for the support they provide. Grateful acknowledgment was also given to the assistance of our volunteers and for the hard work of the staff team, musicians and creative practitioners. Thanks to Catriona Ramsay for all her work as Classes Coordinator and best wishes for her future studies. Welcome to Teya-Jean Bawden as the new Classes Coordinator. The Chair also thanked Marion Mackay, Office Manager, for reaching 10 years of service during the financial year 2018/19.

A number of new Directors joined during this year whilst Conal McDonagh has moved on as his musical career has taken off. The Chair thanked Conal for his contribution and welcomed Ruairidh Gollan, Shona Henderson and Duncan Chisholm to the Board.

The Chair explained that he is stepping down at this AGM after the maximum six years of service including two years as Chair noting that it has been an exceptional honour to be the temporary custodian of this organisation. It has been delightful to see Fèis Rios' progress and wished the organisation all the best for the future.

Fiona thanked the Chair for all his hard work, help and support over the last 6 years and presented a framed tune written for him by Julie Fowles from all the Board and staff. Duncan Chisholm then kindly played the tune for the Chair and the assembled group. All joined in thanking the Chair.

(b) Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts were presented by Coll Murchison-MacDonald of Saffery Champness. The accounts were approved by the Directors.

In his report Coll:

- Highlighted the reserves policy. At the end of the financial year Fèis Rois has almost 4 months' reserves, a robust position;
- Noted that income is up from £673k in 2017 to £726k in 2018 with expenditure of £712k, the surplus adding to the reserves;

- Explained that the records given to them by Fèis Rois are put into statutory format upon which they give an opinion;
- Their opinion is that they are free from any material error;
- The audit findings report is unqualified but for a few formalities;
- The organisation's systems and controls are strong and fit for purpose;
- Two transactions were adjusted so that the accounts show the correct position.

Fiona Callum queried the transfer from unrestricted to restricted accounts. Coll explained that is done to bring balances back to zero and that it is allowable to do that. The adjustment for accruals was due to expenses being submitted after March and that is part of the cut-off testing and he is confident that systems are strong to pick these up.

Coll thanked Fiona Dalgetty and Marion Mackay for their cooperation in the process and for being a pleasure to work with.

The Chair thanked Coll and noted that he was happy to sign off the accounts.

2019.03 Rotation and Appointment of Directors

The following appointments and continued appointments were agreed:

Chair – Malina Macdonald-Dawson

Secretary/Treasurer – Fiona Callum

Director - Shannon Cowie

Director - Norman MacArthur

Director – Shona Henderson

Director – Ruairidh Gollan

Director – Duncan Chisholm

Jennifer Marshall could not attend the AGM but has indicated that she would be interested in joining the Board and the Chair will follow this up.

2019.04 Notified AOCB: There were no further matters raised.