



# **Fèisean nan Gàidheal**

A' toirt ar dualchais do ar n-òigridh

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Holiday Inn  
Glasgow Airport**

**Monday 26 February 2007**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal  
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# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in the Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport from 1.30pm on Monday 26 February 2007.

## Agenda

### 1.2007.01 PRELIMINARIES

- (a) **Present**
- (b) **Apologies**
- (c) **Minutes of the last meeting of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board**  
Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2006 are circulated. Board members are asked to approve same as a true record of the meeting.
- (d) **Matters arising**  
Board members are invited to raise any issues not included elsewhere on the agenda.
- (e) **Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group**  
Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group, held on 12 February 2007, are circulated for information. Board members are invited to raise any points they wish from those minutes.

### 1.2007.02 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- (a) **Progress in implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10**  
A summary of progress to date against the measures in our Development Plan is circulated. Board members may discuss any issues arising from this summary.
- (b) **Ceòl nam Fèis concerts as part of Highland 2007**  
David Boag has prepared a paper on this project which looked at one time as if it would have to be shelved due to lack of funds. Board members are asked to approve plans for this series of showcase concerts.
- (c) **Support for Fèisean not within the Western Isles, Highland or Argyll & Bute**  
For some time now we have been considering how best to support Fèisean within areas not covered by the local authorities that have traditionally supported our activities. A report by the Director is circulated for discussion.
- (d) **New Fèisean nan Gàidheal Website**  
Board members will recall that it was agreed that a new website would be developed on the Sitekit system allowing staff to update it on a regular basis. Examples of the website content will be shown to Board members to give an idea of what the new site will be like.

### 1.2007.03 FINANCIAL ISSUES

- (a) **Financial Report**  
A report prepared by the Finance & Administration Officer, Anne Willoughby, is circulated showing income and expenditure to and from Fèisean nan Gàidheal to 31 January 2007. Also included is a list of grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07. Board members are invited discuss any points relating to the information.
- (b) **Bank balances and up-to-date information**  
This information will be tabled at the meeting.

**(c) Quarterly Accounts to 31 December 2006**

Management Accounts to 31 December 2006, provided by Nicolson & Co, are circulated for information. Board members are invited note the information contained in the accounts.

**1.2007.04 POLICY ISSUES**

**(a) Changes to procedures for election of Directors**

The recent election for a representative from the Western Isles Fèisean highlighted some shortcomings in the procedures set down for the election of Board members. A short report from the Director is circulated outlining ways to rectify this for future elections which Board members are asked to discuss and approve.

**(b) Blas Festival Ltd**

It has become necessary to form a new company – Blas Festival Ltd – which will be VAT-registered and will run the festival. It is necessary for Fèisean nan Gàidheal to nominate directors to serve on the Board of the new company and a short report is circulated by the Director for consideration and approval.

**1.2007.05 OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

**(a) Staff Progress Reports**

Progress Reports from staff are circulated. Board members are asked to note the content of these, and are invited to discuss relevant points.

**(b) 2007 Annual Conference and AGM**

Fèis Spè invited us to take our Annual Conference and AGM to their area, Badenoch & Strathspey, in 2007. Anne Willoughby will report verbally on quotations received from various establishments in the area capable of hosting the conference.

**(c) Election of Directors**

A short report from the Director is circulated with the results of the process to elect new Board members from the Western Isles fèisean.

**1.2007.06 OTHER**

**(a) Meeting of the Executive Group**

The papers from the Executive Group meeting held on 12 February have been circulated in their entirety by e-mail only. Board members are welcome to raise any points they wish from those papers.

**(b) Date of next meeting**

The next meeting has been scheduled for 29 May in Barra.

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held in The Palace Hotel, Inverness, on Thursday 07 December 2006 from 4.00pm

Agenda Item: 4.2006.01(d)

## 4.2006.01 PRELIMINARIES

### (a) Present

Katie Adam (Chair), Peggy Nicolson (Vice Chair), Alasdair MacDonald, Jessie Newton, Jane MacNeil, George Stoddart, Michael Sweeney, Elizabeth Bain, Alasdair Macleod (HIE), Arthur Cormack (Attending), David Boag (Attending), Iona MacDonald (Attending), Calum Alex MacMillan (Attending - translating)

### (b) Apologies

Anne Willoughby, Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council), Ian Smith (SAC)

### (c) Welcome to new Board members and election of Office Bearers for 2006-07

The Chair welcomed Elizabeth Bain and Michael Sweeney to the Board meeting.

Since this was the first meeting following the election of new Board members, the Board required to elect, from amongst themselves, or by co-option, a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

- Katie Adam was elected as Chair, proposed by Peggy Nicolson, seconded by Alasdair MacDonald.
- George Stoddart was appointed as Secretary/Treasurer, proposed by Peggy Nicolson, seconded by Jessie Newton.
- Peggy Nicolson was elected as Vice-Chair, proposed by Katie Adam, seconded by George Stoddart.

### (d) Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Board meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 15 September 2006 had been circulated. These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

### (e) Matters arising

The Executive group had recommended that the National Raffle no longer go ahead. The Board approved.

### (f) Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group

Minutes of the Executive Group held at Cluanie Inn on Wednesday 15 November were circulated and contents noted by Board members.

## 4.2006.02 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

### (a) Progress in implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10

A summary of progress to date against the measures in our Development Plan was circulated and noted by the Board members.

### (b) Training Programme Update

The Training Development Officer, Iona MacDonald, gave Board members an update on the Training Programme, and proposals for a weekend Training Fèis to be held in Inverness on 3/4 February 2007.

Jessie Newton had enquired about the costs of attendance. Iona explained it was free to Fèis personnel and accommodation and travel were covered for 2 Feis representatives.

It was hoped that annualised workers would attend, as it was especially relevant to them. Fèis Bharraigh had requested a "cut down" version of the weekend.

- Iona also mentioned that Level I and II tutor training was happening on 17/18 February in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and Plockton High School has requested Level I and II tutor training for their pupils.
- There were 5 places taken up on the Cùrsa Inntridh to date.
- She was considering running a course to train security personnel on the door, which was especially suitable for events selling alcohol.
- ESF have approved approximately £40k towards the £83,000 training funding for 2007.

#### **4.2006.03 FINANCIAL ISSUES**

##### **(a) Financial Report**

A report prepared by the Finance & Administration Officer, Anne Willoughby, was circulated showing income and expenditure to and from Fèisean nan Gàidheal to 31 October 2006. Also included was a list of grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07. Board members were invited discuss any points relating to the information.

George Stoddart wondered why the bank balances were down by £113,000 in a short space of time. This was as a result of Blas costs being paid out, AGM costs and YMI payments. Concern was expressed over the presentation of the management accounts and the Executive group had already covered this issue and presentation had been discussed with Angus Nicolson.

##### **(b) Bank Balances and up to date information**

The current balances were:

- Current account: £1681.62
- Hi-Interest account: £23,369.87
- Deposit account 1: £100,943.00
- Deposit account 2: £26,347.00

##### **(c) Quarterly Accounts to 30 September 2006**

Management Accounts from 1 July to 30 September 2006, provided by Nicolson & Co were circulated for information. Board members were invited to note the information contained in the accounts. The Board approved changes discussed at the Executive Group meeting to be implemented by Nicolson & Co.

##### **(d) Funding from the Scottish Arts Council from 2007 onwards**

The Director gave some information regarding the progress of the application. Included in this was a copy of the note of the meeting with SAC plus a written report circulated in advance to the Board. Katie Adam recorded her thanks to the Director for the hard work done on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

##### **(e) Funding from Highlands & Islands Enterprise for 2006-09**

Highlands & Islands Enterprise had agreed a substantial funding package for the years 2006 to 2009, amounting to £632K. Alasdair MacLeod confirmed that Fèisean were ineligible for funding from LECs. He apologised for the delay in coming to a conclusion but all agreed it had been worth the wait. Fèisean nan Gàidheal were waiting on an official contract from HIE and Alasdair confirmed that this would be completed soon.

The Director confirmed that Fèisean were happy to accept the funding conditions.

Thanks were to be recorded to Alasdair Macleod and Arthur Cormack for the work.

##### **(f) Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Fund from 2007 onwards**

Because of a condition on HIE funding restricting the fèisean from applying to their Local Enterprise Company (LEC) for grant-aid, it was proposed to make changes to our Development Fund, to enable us to replace LEC funds in certain fèis projects.

David Boag, our Development Manager, had prepared a report that was circulated for discussion and the recommendations were agreed by Board members.

#### **4.2005.04 POLICY ISSUES**

**(a) Wages review**

A report by Anne Barke, supplemented by the Director, was circulated and discussed at the previous Board meeting, and had now been considered by the Executive Group. The paper was tabled for Board members, and the recommendation was to implement it in full.

Staff left the meeting while Board members discussed this item, and the Board agreed that the report recommendations should be implemented in full.

The Chair recorded the Board's thanks and support to the staff.

**(b) Fèisean nan Gàidheal Corporate Image**

As part of the process of re-developing our website, Pelican Design had come up with some ideas for a new Fèisean nan Gàidheal logo which was presented to the Board for consideration.

No decision was reached on this at the meeting.

#### **4.2006.05 OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

**(a) Staff Progress Reports**

Progress Reports from staff were circulated and their contents noted by Board members.

The Director reported on the need to set up a new company for Blas and that a Board of Directors would need to be appointed. This would happen before the end of March 2007. Alasdair MacDonald noted how useful Cèilidh Trails were for Blas and visa-versa and he was keen to keep the link. The Director explained that a portion of the Blas money was ring-fenced for Cèilidh Trails. There was a general discussion on Cèilidh Trails in the Western Isles and lack of funding support for the project.

George Stoddart highlighted a successful YMI concert in Falkirk.

**(b) 2007 Annual Conference and AGM**

Fèis Spè had invited us to take our Annual Conference and AGM to their area, Badenoch & Strathspey, in 2007. The Board members were supportive and staff were to investigate costs. The Macdonald Highland Resort, Aviemore was a possibility.

**(c) Election of Directors**

Laura Green was appointed for the Highland area. A vote had to be held for the Western Isles area between Tommy MacDonald and Peggy McLennan.

#### **4.2006.06 OTHER**

**(a) A O C B**

Michael Sweeney and Elizabeth Bain had to complete forms 288a and also George Stoddart as Company Secretary.

**(b) Meeting of the Executive Group**

The papers from the Executive Group meeting held on 15 November had been circulated in their entirety by e-mail only. Board members noted this.

**(c) Date of next meeting**

Board members were invited to set dates for meetings for 2007.

The following dates were agreed:

- 26 February 2007 in Glasgow
- 28/29 May 2007 in Barra
- 14 September 2007 in Aviemore
- 3 December 2007 in Inverness

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Group held in Cluanie Inn, Cluanie Monday 12 February from 1.30pm

Agenda item: 1.2007.01(e)

### EX1.2007.01 PRELIMINARIES

#### (a) Present

Katie Adam (Fèis a' Bhaile, Chair), George Stoddart (Fèis 'sa Mheadhan, Secretary/Treasurer), Peggy Nicolson (Fèis an Earraich, Vice-Chair), Arthur Cormack (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director), David Boag (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Manager), Anne Willoughby (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Finance & Administration Officer)

#### (b) Apologies

Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council), Ian Smith (Scottish Arts Council), Alasdair MacLeod (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

#### (c) Minutes of previous Executive Group meeting for approval

The minutes were approved as a true record.

#### (d) Matters arising

It was noted that Fèisean nan Gàidheal had won Community Project of the Year at the Traditional Music awards held in Fort William.

### EX1.2007.02 PROJECT UPDATES

#### (a) 25 years celebratory book (verbal)

Sales for the book were slow but it was still to be advertised among distributors and other outlets. Highlander Music were still selling them. The Director was going to work on this and hopefully get sales to increase over the coming months. He reported that we do not have the capability of selling them online until we have our own website.

#### (b) Gaelic Developments/Meanbh-Chuileag/Gaelic Drama (verbal)

David Boag reported that Douglas Beck and Deirdre Graham were touring around 40 schools just now with a new play focused on citizenship. This was going well and good feedback had been received from the schools. Calum Alex Macmillan was currently attending Feis Dhùn Èideann and moving on to Fèis Obar Dheathain at the weekend. The training day in Perth for Sgioba-G had been successful but most of the attendees were students and it was difficult to get students out of the universities when required.

Douglas Beck was running a Gaelic Drama project in Stornoway along with Christina Morrison.

Funding had been made available by Bòrd na Gàidhlig for laptops for the Sgioba-G team and these had now been ordered. David had sent an application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for a wider range of projects and was waiting to hear the outcome in the next few weeks. The Director thanked David for his hard work and especially for submitting the application in Gaelic and complying with our Gaelic policy.

George Stoddart suggested that Ruairidh MacDonald may be worth contacting regarding Gaelic Drama summer schools.

#### (c) Training Programme (verbal)

The Director reported that Iona organised a training fair on 03/04 February, which had been very successful. Katie mentioned that no-one had attended from the Western Isles but another event was planned for the Western Isles. Sgoil Lionacleit was suggested as a possible venue.

The Tutor Training weekend at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was full.

**(d) YMI contracts (verbal)**

The Director reported that there was a danger of an over-spend on the YMI budget in Highland but this was being monitored carefully. The providers had been asked to reduce costs where appropriate. There had been an over-spend from the previous year carried forward and we had the choice to over-commit again this year or stopping before this happened.

However, since there was no service level agreement from Highland Council, it was noted that we could not be sure of next year's funding being in place and it was decided that an over-spend should be avoided.

It was noted that Allison Watson had replaced Chris Rasdale at Fèis Rois.

**(e) Blas Festival Progress Report (circulated)**

The report to Highland Council was circulated for information. Tickets were now on sale and the new website was launched. The Booth page on the website was not working quite as well as it should yet, and the Gaelic side was still to be completed. The programme had been completed earlier for Highland 2007.

**(f) Lochabair Fèisean (verbal)**

The Director reported that as Ingrid Henderson was expecting a baby, she was to be replaced temporarily by Fiona Ironside. Fiona had been offered a 6-month contract, which would be renewed month by month thereafter until Ingrid's intentions are known.

**(g) Website Development (verbal)**

The website was to be ready in a month's time. Priority had been given to Blas and Pelican Design had worked on that part of the website first.

**EX1.2007.03 STAFFING ISSUES**

**(a) Staff contracts and salary review (verbal)**

The contracts had been issued to all staff and a couple of things had to be changed in the job descriptions but everyone seemed happy enough.

**(b) Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer maternity cover (verbal)**

This had been covered under EX1.2007.02(f) above.

**EX1.2007.04 FINANCIAL ISSUES**

**(a) Financial Report (circulated)**

A report from the Finance Officer had been circulated. A brief funding update was given for all projects but some of the items were covered elsewhere in the agenda under project updates. It was reported that a considerable amount of money was expected to come in before the end of March.

**(b) Bank Balances and up to date information (verbal)**

The current bank balances were given as follows: £12,776.78 in the Current account and £688.61 in the High Interest account.

**(c) HIE contract with Fèisean nan Gàidheal (circulated for information)**

The HIE contract was circulated for information. The Director had signed the contract and once the auditors report had been received it was anticipated that the first payment would then be released.

**(d) SAC funding (letter and timetable circulated for information)**

The Director was due to meet with Ian Smith the following day to discuss SAC funding. The £250,000 foundation funding offered was not going to be enough to do what we had planned, and a further £100,000 was required for our grant schemes. It had not been possible to put a budget together for next year due to the uncertainty over our total funding for the coming financial year.

**(e) Bòrd na Gàidhlig bid 2007-08 (circulated for information)**

This was covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**(f) Quarterly management accounts (to be tabled)**

Quarterly management accounts, prepared by Nicolson & Co had been circulated.

Ken Houston had requested at the last meeting that a comparison with the previous year be included, but as this was the first year of preparing management accounts Nicolson & Co were unable to do this with any accuracy. It was decided that since Fèisean nan Gàidheal was not reliant on comparisons in sales and income, this was not required and the idea was to be abandoned.

**EX1.2007.05                      DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

**(a) Reporting format (verbal)**

Katie Adam suggested that she would like the progress reports from staff to link in with the Development Plan and also the personal development plans of individual members of staff. It was suggested that staff appraisals would need to be carried out in the near future with a possible follow-up at the Annual Conference. Katie Adam was describing a method of using traffic lights for reporting on the progress of projects and was going to e-mail a template to show how this might work.

**EX1.2007.06                      BOARD MEETINGS**

**(a) Agenda items to be included in February Board meeting (verbal)**

It was suggested Ian Smith be invited to the Board meeting as it was in Glasgow and might be easier for him to attend. Plans for showcase concerts were to be included and also a presentation of the new website. This could be on disk for the meeting for Arthur or David to show members.

**(b) Board Election - Western Isles (verbal)**

The election run in the Western Isles for Board members had resulted in a tie with both candidates polling 6 votes. It was decided that the Board now had to make a decision on how to handle this, and it was to be discussed at the next meeting.

**EX1.2007.07                      GENERAL**

**(a) AOCB**

- There was to be a Gaelic Arts conference held on 8/9 May in Stornoway and members were invited to attend if they wished.
- Katie Adam suggested that Board members should submit anything to be discussed as AOCB at either meeting, one week beforehand.

**(b) Date and venue of next meeting**

The date for the next meeting was 14 May 2007 at Cluanie Inn.

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Progress on implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10

Agenda Item: 1.2007.02(a)

Enclosed is a summary of the main developments recommended in the Development Plan, along with progress to date, which should aid Board members in monitoring progress.

<b>1</b>	<b>Provide support for the development of individual Fèisean, promoting excellent working practices, and developing their range of activities</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
4.1.1	Grants Scheme for Fèisean	Ongoing, and grants paid out as per agreements. Grants for 2006-07 being paid as claims come in, and grant offers for 2007-08 will be issued in late February. Development Fund applications being processed.	*	*
4.1.2	Reducing the burden on volunteers	Support workers and a range of support services in place. Policies are made as easy as possible for volunteers to deliver. Continuation of Annualised Hours scheme, with increase in hourly rate.	*	*
4.1.3	Annual Conference	Invitation from Fèis Spè to take the conference to Badenoch & Strathspey in 2007.	*	*
4.1.4	Insurance	Being negotiated at present, and premium has not altered this year, although it may with proposed amendments to cover.	*	*
4.1.5	Musical instrument Bank	Ongoing and well used. Demand outstrips supply and a number of repairs/replacements carried out.	*	*
4.1.6	Disclosure checking	Ongoing – over 1,000 Disclosure Checks carried out and now beginning of re-checking people.	*	*
4.1.7	Maintenance of a Fèis Tutors database	Ongoing. New template and online database being worked on at present.	*	*
4.1.8	Developing, distributing and selling publications	Ongoing. Book celebrating 25 years of the Fèisean now published and we are seeking proper distribution.	*	*
4.1.9	Production and distribution of regular news and other information	Faileas was professionally produced for the first time, with issue 23, and 24 will be ready by the end of February.	*	*
4.1.10	Support for new Fèisean	New Fèisean given assistance with set-up and funding, if appropriate, from the New Developments Fund. Possibility of additional funding for new fèisean as part of HIE/SAC packages.	*	*
4.1.11	Supporting the development of Fèisean, or collectives of Fèisean, wishing to become more independent	Supporting Lochaber Fèisean and Fèis Spè.	*	*
4.1.12	Extending support for the Fèisean outwith the 'traditional' Fèis local authority areas	Looking at viability of an officer to cover these areas as part of submission to SAC. Looking likely from 2007 onwards.	*	*
<b>2</b>	<b>Develop the use of the Gaelic language within the Fèis movement. Developing the spoken word as a means of communication and medium for tuition, according to the needs of the community each Fèis serves</b>			
4.2.1	Prepare a Gaelic Language Policy for Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which will be adopted by members of the organisation	Policy issued formally to Fèisean with letters of offer, along with guidance. Close monitoring and maximum support needed to implement effectively.		
4.2.2	Develop a Gaelic Language Development Team	Sgioba-G project running, with visits to 3 Fèisean in February.		
4.2.3	Develop mechanisms for the delivery of our	Sgioba-G, Gaelic policy implementation and	*	*

	Gaelic Language Policy within Fèisean nan Gàidheal	Fèis Gaelic plans. Gaelic Officer now in place.		
4.2.4	Develop wholly Gaelic-medium Fèisean and Gaelic-medium tuition at existing and new Fèisean	6 Fèisean now GM, and GM tuition being developed. No new Fèisean admitted for membership without Gaelic commitment.	*	*
4.2.5	Development of Gaelic Drama	Drama Fèis developed in Argyll, and work going on in Lewis also. Sgoil Shamhraidh idea being mooted, and some HIE funding secured for this.	*	*
<b>3</b>	<b>Develop the work of the Fèisean within the formal education sector</b>			
4.3.1	Youth Music Initiative contract in Highland	Ongoing, and running successfully in its 4 <sup>th</sup> year. Tuition resources have been issued to all schools and tutors, and a part-time Co-ordinator now looks after organisational issues.	*	*
4.3.2	Potential for Youth Music Initiative contract work in other areas	Work ongoing in East Lothian also, with Fèis Dhùn Eideann.	*	*
4.3.3	Gaelic Language work in schools	Meanbh-Chuileag on tour in January and February 2007.	*	*
4.3.4	Other formal educational work	Possible involvement in resource development through the Traditional Music Forum.	*	*
<b>4</b>	<b>Strategic projects and contract work, with partners, carried out by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and individual Fèisean</b>			
4.4.2	Development of Blas – Celebrating Highland Music	Blas 2007 on sale now. Clydesdale Bank has confirmed its sponsorship. New company formed, which will be VAT-registered, and which will be owned by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.	*	*
4.4.3	Continuing support for Fèis Cèilidh Trails	Funding available within Blas budget, with additional HIE and SAC funds secured.	*	*
4.4.4	Encourage local Fèisean to archive material which could be utilised in teaching situations in their area	Archiving project to be carried forward, and an application has now been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the Development Manager.	*	*
4.4.5	Gaelic Arts Strategic Development – GASD	Ongoing work and FnG involved as a partner and as a deliverer of certain elements. Gaelic Arts Conference in Stornoway on 8 and 9 May.	*	
4.4.6	Inter-Fèis activities	To be integrated into our Development Fund from 2007.	*	*
4.4.7	Traditional Music Tutor Training Network – TMTTN	Ongoing work, and now looking at promotion of PDA and development of an advanced certificate. GASD also investigating ways of making training available for Gaelic Arts professionals.		
<b>5</b>	<b>Develop training to enhance the skills of those involved in Fèisean and promote excellence within the Fèis movement</b>			
4.5.1	Retain a Training Development Officer	Retained for now and pulling funding together, with success.	*	*
4.5.2	Annual Training Programme	Very successful Fèis Thrèanaidh in Inverness in February, and Tutor's weekend at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig over-subscribed.	*	*
4.5.3	Teenage provision within the Fèis movement	Will continue to support Fèis Rois nan Deugairean, and Fèis Lochabair looking at making similar provision.	*	*
<b>6</b>	<b>Continue to foster closer links between Fèisean, other organisations and other countries, and raise the profile of the Fèis movement through enhanced PR and showcase opportunities</b>			
4.6.1	Networking	Ongoing – various presentations including one for the Highland Council and a meeting with Argyll & Bute Council.	*	*

4.6.2	Advocacy	Always ongoing.	*	*
4.6.3	International Links	Cape Breton, English and Irish musicians will take part in Blas this year.	*	*
4.6.4	Promotion and Marketing	Within Chris Deplano's remit to raise profile and issue press releases regularly. Faileas being created regularly.	*	*
4.6.5	Information	Information of all kinds disseminated to members.	*	*
4.6.6	Website and ICT	New site being designed by Pelican Design using Sitekit. Part of the website (Blas) is up and running with the FnG part due in early March 2007.	*	*
4.6.7	Showcasing opportunities	4 Ceòl nam Fèis showcase concerts to be mounted this year. Harvest will be part of Blas, and we are in talks with NessFest about a showcase event as part of that festival. Also hope to showcase Fèis youngsters as part of the Runrig event at Drumnadrochit.	*	*

**Arthur Cormack**  
 Director  
 February 2007

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Ceòl nam Fèis concerts as part of Highland 2007

Agenda Item: 1.2007.02(b)

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been looking into the possibility of staging four Ceòl nam Fèis concerts during 2007. At a meeting of the FnG executive group, it was proposed that the dates for this tour be the week of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June as follows:-

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Gather for rehearsals, possibly Farr Hall, near Inverness a.m. Rehearsal begins p.m.
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Full day rehearsal
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Travel to <b>Aberdeen</b> – sound check p.m. (Possible venue – Aberdeen Arts Centre, 300 seats)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Travel to Stirling / Kinross to accommodation (for 3 nights) Travel p.m. to <b>Perth</b> – sound check p.m. (Possible venue – Perth Theatre, 400 seats)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Travel to <b>Edinburgh</b> – sound check p.m. (Possible venues Queens Hall, 850 seats or St. Brides Centre, 250 seats)
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Travel to <b>Glasgow</b> – sound check p.m. (Possible venues Strathclyde Suite, 500 seats or Tron Theatre, 230 seats)

This tour would feature either the existing Cèilidh Trail groups, or we would ask all Fèisean to submit proposals for participants in the 16 – 25 year age group – solo acts or small groups (no more than 4 people). The maximum number of participants will be 45.

A musical director will be appointed to put a balanced programme together, featuring acts from the different Fèisean, plus a grand finale. All participants will be paid £150 for taking part in the tour, with all travel, accommodation and meal costs covered.

I envisage that we aim for an audience of about 900 people across all 4 venues, with an average ticket price of £10. The net figure quoted in the budget for the box office income is less commission of 8% to venues. A copy of the detailed budget is shown overleaf.

A few questions for the board to consider:-

- Is the 16 – 25 age group correct?
- Should we focus on existing Cèilidh Trail groups or invite all Fèisean to submit acts?
- Is the time of year suitable?
- Are the proposed cities suitable, and if so, are there any other more suitable venues?
- Should the participants be paid?
- Do you think that a target of 900 people across the 4 venues is realistic?
- Ticket prices?

**Ceòl nam Fèis  
4 Cities Tour Budget**

**Expenditure**

Musical Director	£1,500.00
Stage manager	£1,000.00
Stage helpers	£700.00
Performers fees	£6,750.00
4 Supervisors / helpers	£1,400.00
Travel to and from start / rehearsal point	£1,250.00
Rehearsal accommodation	£4,240.00
Rehearsal venue	£400.00
Rehearsal catering	£1,590.00
5 day coach hire	£1,900.00
4 Cities accommodation	£8,640.00
4 Cities catering	£3,240.00
4 Cities venues	£4,800.00
PA hire and travel	£2,500.00
Marketing	£1,500.00
Contingency	£2,070.50
Administration	£7,609.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>£51,089.59</b>

**Income**

Highlands and Islands Enterprise	£15,000.00
Scottish Arts Council	£25,000.00
Box Office (net)	£8,280.00
Feisean nan Gaidheal	£2,809.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>£51,089.59</b>

**David Boag**  
Development Manager  
February 2007

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Support for Fèisean not within the Western Isles, Highland or Argyll & Bute

Agenda Item: 1.2007.02(c)

### Background

Because the bulk of our funding comes from Highland and Island sources - Highland & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll & Bute Council - the only funding we have that can be used throughout Scotland is that from the Scottish Arts Council.

This support has resulted in our being able to employ Fèis Support Workers and development staff in those areas, and has meant that most of the development over the years has taken place in the Highlands and Islands, due to the necessity to spend money from the area in the area.

As we all know, however, Fèisean now take place in other local authority areas such as Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling. Fèisean nan Gàidheal needs to develop relationships with these authorities, to raise awareness of the Fèisean in their areas, to point out the kinds of help the authority could give and the difference that would make.

### Proposal

It has been a proposal in our Development Plan to employ staff in areas where the case can be made, and the support gained, and with the new foundation funding from the Scottish Arts Council, this can probably be achieved if we can get one or more of the relevant local authorities to contribute to the costs.

We therefore want to begin looking at the feasibility of employing a Development Officer to cover those Fèisean, and would propose that we establish a post in the area in which we get financial assistance from the local authority.

As a first step, I would propose liaising with those Fèisean affected, to find out if they have an existing good relationships with their local authority, and then begin writing to, and meeting with, local authorities to see who may like to have a Development Officer in their area.

The Development Officer would be involved in a range of tasks similar to those of our current development staff, to include:

- Having regular liaison with, and providing developmental support to community led Fèisean in the designated areas.
- Be a point of contact for all Fèisean nan Gàidheal services.
- Visiting Fèisean on a regular basis, either at the time of the Fèis, or at another appropriate time during the year, for example at committee meetings.
- By the end of the first year of employment, and in conjunction with all Fèisean, to have developed clear plans for the development of each Fèis locally, both in general terms and also for the promotion of Gaelic language.
- Devising, developing and writing funding applications for projects on behalf of individual Fèisean.
- Liaising with other bodies involved in the development of the Gaelic arts and traditional music and, where appropriate, working in partnership with these bodies
- Ensuring that the Fèisean maintain the high profile and status they have earned over the last number of years.
- Ensuring that the Fèisean are kept informed at all times of the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and are given as much support as possible.
- Lobbying on behalf of the member Fèisean to ensure the success of Fèisean locally, as far as is possible.
- Developing and supporting Inter-Fèis activities where appropriate.
- Other reasonable duties as may be determined from time to time in conjunction with the Development Manager and other staff as appropriate.

This is very much indicative, and would have to be refined in the light of local needs.

## Costs

The cost of employing a Development Officer would be as follows:

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>YEAR ONE</b>	<b>ANNUALLY</b>
Start up costs: Recruitment, Computer etc	£3,000	£0
Salary	£21,861	£22,407
NI	£2,405	£2,465
Pension	£1,093	£1,232
Travel expenses	£2,000	£2,000
Postage, Stationery, Telephone, Printing, Office costs	£2,500	£2,500
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£32,859</b>	<b>£30,604</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Scottish Arts Council	£15,000	£15,000
Local Authority	£15,000	£15,000
Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£2,859	£604
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£32,859</b>	<b>£30,604</b>

## Recommendation

I would recommend that we begin talks with the local Fèisean, and then local authorities, and establish a post where we get sufficient support.

We would also have to ensure that the £15k from the Scottish Arts Council is secure, and that it will be for more than one year, so that the post has a chance to be embedded into Fèisean nan Gàidheal annual funding in the long term.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Director  
February 2007

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Financial Report

Agenda Item: 1.2007.03(a)

This report includes:

- 1 Income and Expenditure from 1 April 2006 to 31 January 2007
- 2 List of the grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07

Agenda item 1.2007.03(b)

- 1 Current bank balances will be tabled at the meeting

Agenda item 1.2007.03(c)

- 1 Management accounts for the quarter to 31 December 2006 prepared by Nicolson & Co are circulated

**Anne Willoughby**  
Finance and Administrative Officer  
February 2007

## Income and expenditure to 31 March 2007, with actual transactions to 31 January 2007

Agenda Item: 1.2007.03(a)1

### FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL - BUDGET 2006-07

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Budget for Year</b>	<b>Budget for Period</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Core Grants	£138,112.00	£115,093.33	£ 125,079.04
Fèis Support Workers	£30,500.00	£25,416.67	£ 25,880.70
Grants Scheme	£150,500.00	£125,416.67	£ 102,500.00
Training Programme	£96,242.35	£80,201.96	£ 28,367.00
Meanbh-Chuilleag	£93,702.09	£78,085.08	£ 88,130.00
Highland Youth Music Initiative	£181,511.00	£151,259.17	£ 181,511.00
Annualised Hours	£31,500.00	£26,250.00	£ 0.00
Lochaber Development Officer	£28,803.00	£24,002.50	£ 17,676.00
Fèis Development Fund	£15,000.00	£12,500.00	£ 0.00
Earned Income	£21,900.00	£18,250.00	£ 23,695.00
Fèis Bharraigh w/shops	£25,146.00	£20,955.00	£ 11,848.00
Support 2 New Fèisean	£12,000.00	£10,000.00	£ 1,500.00
Blas Music Festival	£252,191.00	£210,159.17	£ 218,361.03
Archiving	£20,000.00	£16,666.67	£ 0.00
Pr/Website	£5,000.00	£4,166.67	£ 9,250.00
Website Development	£10,000.00	£8,333.33	£ 0.00
25 Anniversary Book	£58,625.00	£48,854.17	£ 17,500.00
Support Other Publications	£10,000.00	£8,333.33	£ 0.00
City Feisean Dev Officer	£40,000.00	£33,333.33	£ 0.00
Still to be raised	£18,000.00	£15,000.00	£ 0.00
Management Fees	£78,683.00	£65,569.17	£ 60,411.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£1,317,415.44</b>	<b>£1,097,846.20</b>	<b>£911,708.77</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Running Costs</b>			
Core Staff Salaries	£143,750.00	£119,791.67	£124,250.00
NIC Contributions	£9,888.00	£8,240.00	£8,240.00
Pension Contributions	£3,000.00	£2,500.00	£2,145.75
Core Staff Travel	£17,000.00	£14,166.67	£14,896.00
Office Rent & Rates	£14,000.00	£11,666.67	£9,184.00
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£8,000.00	£6,666.67	£6,776.00
Telephone, Fax,Email,Heat & Light	£8,000.00	£6,666.67	£4,656.00
Board Expenses	£4,500.00	£3,750.00	£2,090.81
Implementation of Child Protection policy	£8,000.00	£6,666.67	£7,453.85
Insurance	£7,000.00	£5,833.33	£7,621.07
Sundry Expenses and Professional Fees	£3,500.00	£2,916.67	£4,047.00
Accountancy & Bank Charges	£2,500.00	£2,083.33	£2,155.17
Instrument Bank Repairs/Purchases	£2,000.00	£1,666.67	£2,401.37
Additional Support Needs	£2,000.00	£1,666.67	£2,000.00
Capital Expenses	£3,000.00	£2,500.00	£3,369.78
<b>Programme Costs</b>			
Grants Paid Out	£178,000.00	£148,333.33	£117,470.00
Annualised Hours	£31,500.00	£26,250.00	£16,506.00
Feis Development Expenditure	£15,000.00	£12,500.00	£4,002.00
Lochabair Fèisean Development	£28,500.00	£23,750.00	£25,659.12
Training Programme	£96,242.35	£80,201.96	£40,173.43
Fèis Bharraigh workshops	£25,146.00	£20,955.00	£7,461.00

Meanbh Chuileag and Gaelic Development	£93,702.00	£78,085.00	£79,295.06
Highland Council Youth Music Initiative	£181,511.00	£151,259.17	£223,935.03
National Raffle Expenditure	£2,500.00	£2,083.33	£1,304.33
25 Anniversary/Book	£58,300.00	£48,583.33	£61,628.68
Directory of Fèis Tutors/Newsletter	£1,000.00	£833.33	£2,462.63
Publications	£3,000.00	£2,500.00	£2,887.15
Annual Conference	£8,500.00	£7,083.33	£9,203.01
Inter Fèis activities	£1,000.00	£833.33	£489.86
Blas Festival Development	£242,750.00	£202,291.67	£233,987.62
Archiving Project	£20,000.00	£16,666.67	£0.00
PR & Marketing	£5,000.00	£4,166.67	£7,206.40
Website Development	£8,500.00	£7,083.33	£0.00
<b>New Projects</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Support 2 New Fèisean	£12,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
Support Other Publications	£10,000.00	£8,333.33	£0.00
City Fèisean Development Officer	£40,000.00	£33,333.33	£0.00
Contingency	£5,000.00	£4,166.67	£4,201.98
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,303,289.35</b>	<b>£1,086,074.46</b>	<b>£1,039,160.10</b>
Transfer to Reserves (0.175%Management Fees)	13,769.53	£11,474.60	£10,571.93
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>£14,126.09</b>	<b>£11,771.74</b>	<b>-£127,451.33</b>

#### **Funding Outstanding at 31 January 2007**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig	£1,000.00	Now paid
HIE	£144,000.00	£112k certified and claimed
SAC	£7,500.00	Not available until year end
SAC Core	£12,101.00	Paid on cash-flow
CnaG	£2,500.00	Now paid
SAC	£25,000.00	Still to be offered
CnES	£13,500.00	Claimed
SAC (Balance of 25 years book grant)	£1,500.00	Claimed
Gaelic Media Service (25 years book grant)	£1,000.00	Now paid
SAC (NCS balance of grant)	£2,500.00	Claimed
Bòrd na Gàidhlig	£16,250.00	Due end of March
SAC (Meanbh-Chuileag balance)	£1,000.00	To be claimed
Bòrd na Gàidhlig	£24,000.00	Not available until year end
HIE Training/Gaelic Dev	£25,000.00	Claimed
ESF	£10,308.00	Claimed
ESF	£5,994.00	Claimed
ESF	£5,000.00	Claimed
S&L Enterprise	£1,500.00	To be claimed
WIC	£3,000.00	To be claimed
SAC (Training Officer balance)	£1,500.00	Claimed
Lochaber Enterprise	£5,505.00	To be claimed but awaiting SAC funds
Leader 08/06	£4,951.23	To be claimed
SAC (Lochaber post)	£5,000.00	Still to be offered
East Lothian Council	£6,816.10	Now paid
East Lothian Council	£15,821.90	Now paid
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£336,425.33</b>	

At the time of completing the papers for sending out, £34,138 of the above had been received. Board members will be further updated at the meeting.

## Grants pledged to Fèisean 2006-07

Agenda Item: 1.2007.03(a)2

Name	Main Fèis Grant	Local Authority	Follow-on Grants	Annualised Hours	Ann Hours Grant	Dev.Fund	Total Grant Offered	Balance Paid	Outstanding Balance
<b>The Highland Council</b>									
Fèis an Earraich	£ 6,612.00	£ 3,306.00	£ 3,735.00	320	£ 2,400.00	£ 0.00	£ 16,053.00	£ 9,885.00	£ 6,168.00
Fèis Lochabair	£ 2,750.00	£ 1,375.00	£ 3,480.00	260	£ 1,950.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,555.00	£ 3,814.00	£ 5,741.00
Fèis Innis an Uillt	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 891.00	60	£ 450.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,341.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,341.00
Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan	£ 3,820.00	£ 1,910.00	£ 4,500.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,730.00	£ 4,298.00	£ 7,432.00
Fèis Chataibh	£ 2,697.00	£ 1,349.00	£ 1,640.00	220	£ 1,650.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,336.00	£ 5,556.00	£ 1,780.00
Fèis a' Bhealaich	£ 263.00	£ 131.00	£ 344.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,038.00	£ 172.00	£ 866.00
Fèis Thròdainis	£ 1,080.00	£ 540.00	£ 1,224.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,444.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,444.00
Fèis Rois nan Deugairean	£ 7,733.00	£ 3,867.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,600.00	£ 11,600.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Chille Mhòraig	£ 1,450.00	£ 725.00	£ 112.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,787.00	£ 1,631.00	£ 2,156.00
Fèis Eige	£ 492.00	£ 246.00	£ 480.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,368.00	£ 704.00	£ 664.00
Fèis Rois Òigridh	£ 6,513.00	£ 3,257.00	£ 5,188.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 14,958.00	£ 12,364.00	£ 2,594.00
Fèis Srath Fharragaig	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 660.00	30	£ 225.00	£ 0.00	£ 885.00	£ 608.00	£ 277.00
Fèis na h-Oòge	£ 1,964.67	£ 982.33	£ 2,138.00	180	£ 1,350.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,435.00	£ 2,210.00	£ 4,225.00
Fèis Air an Oir	£ 163.00	£ 82.00	£ 2,000.00	50	£ 375.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,620.00	£ 2,187.00	£ 433.00
Feis Ghlinn Albainn	£ 1,067.00	£ 533.00	£ 2,000.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,750.00	£ 2,600.00	£ 1,150.00
Fèis Ratharsaidh	£ 850.00	£ 425.00	£ 0.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,575.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,575.00
Fèis a' Bhaile	£ 1,924.66	£ 962.34	£ 486.00	180	£ 1,350.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,723.00	£ 2,165.00	£ 2,558.00
Fèis Òigridh na Mara	£ 1,116.67	£ 558.33	£ 4,000.00	160	£ 1,200.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,875.00	£ 2,600.00	£ 4,275.00
Fèis Inbhir Narann	£ 585.00	£ 293.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,878.00	£ 1,159.00	£ 719.00
Fèis Spè	£ 2,400.00	£ 1,200.00	£ 3,500.00	70	£ 525.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,625.00	£ 4,828.00	£ 2,797.00
<b>Other Area/City Councils</b>									
Fèis Dhùn Eideann	£ 2,480.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,106.00	600	£ 4,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 12,086.00	£ 4,803.00	£ 7,283.00
Fèis Chille Conbhal	£ 941.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,132.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,073.00	£ 706.00	£ 1,367.00
Fèis Arainn	£ 2,900.00	£ 0.00	£ 808.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,708.00	£ 2,579.00	£ 1,129.00
Fèis Obair Dheathain	£ 2,275.00	£ 0.00	£ 384.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,159.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,159.00
Feis Dhùn Bhreatainn	£ 206.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,500.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,306.00	£ 1,250.00	£ 2,056.00

Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00
Fèis Lannraig a Tuath	£ 856.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,456.00	£ 642.00	£ 814.00
Fèis 'sa Mheadhan	£ 2,518.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,284.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,552.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,552.00
<b>Western Isles Council</b>									
Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain	£ 2,865.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,564.00	210	£ 1,575.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,504.00	£ 6,233.00	£ 1,271.00
Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	£ 2,650.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 3,856.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,106.00	£ 7,413.00	£ 1,693.00
Fèis Tìr an Eòrna	£ 1,483.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,352.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,085.00	£ 2,612.00	£ 2,473.00
Fèis Bharraigh	£ 3,060.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 3,334.00	240	£ 1,800.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,694.00	£ 4,845.00	£ 4,849.00
Fèis Eilean na Hearadh	£ 875.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,375.00	£ 2,156.00	£ 219.00
Fèis an Rubha	£ 1,000.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 750.00	£ 250.00
Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,100.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,100.00
<b>Argyll &amp; Bute Council</b>									
Fèis Latharna	£ 1,621.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,340.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,961.00	£ 2,716.00	£ 3,245.00
Fèis Mhuile	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,300.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,400.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,400.00
Fèis Thiriodh	£ 1,025.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 260.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,785.00	£ 2,269.00	£ 516.00
Fèis Ile	£ 190.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 332.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,022.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,022.00
Feis Glaschu	£ 3,412.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,412.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,412.00
Fèis Ceann Loch Goibhle	£ 415.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,415.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,415.00
	<b>Total Main Fèis</b>	<b>Total LA Grants</b>	<b>Total Follow-on</b>	<b>Total Ann. Hours</b>	<b>Total Other Grants</b>	<b>Total Dev.</b>	<b>Total pledged.</b>	<b>Total paid out</b>	<b>Total still to pay out</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 74,253.00</b>	<b>£ 35,742.00</b>	<b>£ 66,430.00</b>	<b>4180</b>	<b>£ 31,350.00</b>	<b>£ 0.00</b>	<b>£ 207,775.00</b>	<b>£ 107,355.00</b>	<b>£ 100,420.00</b>

# **Fèisean nan Gàidheal**

**Management accounts to 31 December 2006**

Agenda Item: 1.2007.03(c)

**FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL**

**MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2006**

**FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL**

**CONTENTS OF THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**  
for the Period 1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006

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**FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL**

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
for the Period 1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006

**TRUSTEES:** Mr Ken Houston  
Mr Ken Mackenzie  
Mrs Kate Kerr  
Katie Adam  
Peggy Nicolson  
Joan Robertson  
Mrs Jane MacNeil  
Mr George Stoddart  
Mrs Jessie Newton  
Mr Alasdair MacDonald

**CHARITY NUMBER:** SC015053

**REGISTERED OFFICE:** Meall House  
Portree  
Isle of Skye  
IV51 9BZ

**ACCOUNTANTS:** Nicolson  
Chartered Accountants  
& Registered Auditors  
49/50 Bayhead  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis  
HS1 2DZ

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – CORE ACTIVITIES  
for the Period 1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006

	1.4.06 to 31.12.06 £	1.4.06 to 30.9.06 £
<b>Turnover</b>		
Grant income	215,986	177,765
Membership fees	3,825	425
Bank interest	837	688
Management fees & other income	64,193	62,193
Sale of books	2,012	1,230
Instrument bank revenue	3,087	1,983
Gaelic Development	88,355	52,805
Feis Alba	<u>2,480</u>	<u>2,480</u>
	<u>380,775</u>	<u>299,569</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Rent, rates and water	9,184	5,902
Insurance	7,621	7,621
Light and heat	1,133	702
Telephone and fax	3,368	2,355
Gaelic Development	53,336	31,765
Core salaries	112,320	73,956
National Insurance	11,396	6,540
Pensions	2,146	1,475
Staff expenses	13,531	8,859
Grants awarded	51,100	51,100
Stationery and printing	7,880	5,849
Publications	4,367	1,289
Annual Conference	6,484	7,906
Board expenses	1,958	1,216
Other expenses	12,934	8,821
Child Protection costs	9,700	8,232
Accountancy	1,454	-
25th Anniversary book (net of grant)	59,954	32,835
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		
Computer equipment	75	75
Bank charges	<u>83</u>	<u>58</u>
<b>Total costs</b>	<u>370,024</u>	<u>256,556</u>

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

BALANCE SHEET  
31 December 2006

	31.12.06		30.9.06	
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stocks	3,478		3,478	
Grants receivable	334,108		267,890	
Other debtors	2,605		2,578	
Cash management account	20,083		37,493	
Deposit account	28,312		174,722	
Bank account	<u>26,487</u>		<u>-</u>	
	<u>415,073</u>		<u>486,161</u>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Bank overdraft	-		16,288	
Trade creditors	2,496		2,496	
Social security and other taxes	6,214		5,353	
Grants awarded but unpaid	182,985		193,642	
Accrued expenses	<u>1,000</u>		<u>1,500</u>	
	<u>192,695</u>		<u>219,279</u>	
		<u>222,378</u>		<u>266,882</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>222,378</u>		<u>266,882</u>
<b>SPECIFIC RESERVES</b>				
Training project		66,393		25,225
Lochaber development fund		(19,352)		(22,960)
Blas Festival		53,174		27,796
Schools project		32,453		114,849
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund		<u>89,710</u>		<u>121,972</u>
		<u>222,378</u>		<u>266,882</u>

**TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS SCHEDULE**  
31 December 2006

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 April 2006 and 31 December 2006	<u>26,500</u>	<u>73,712</u>	<u>3,196</u>	<u>103,408</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 April 2006	26,500	73,712	2,921	103,133
Charge for period	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>275</u>
At 31 December 2006	<u>26,500</u>	<u>73,712</u>	<u>3,196</u>	<u>103,408</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 December 2006	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2006	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>275</u>

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

FUNDS SCHEDULE  
31 December 2006

	General fund £	ICT project £	Training project £	
At 1 April 2006	78,959	2,319	25,848	
Surplus for the period	10,751			
Grants received	-	-	52,302	
Earned income	-	-	44,185	
Salaries and expenses	-	-	(37,177)	
Administrative costs	-	(2,319)	(18,765)	
At 31 December 2006	<u>89,710</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,393</u>	
	Lochaber development fund £	Blas Festival £	Schools project £	Totals £
At 1 April 2006	(6,099)	(15,638)	89,027	174,416
Surplus for the period				10,751
Grants received	28,350	275,436	242,149	598,237
Earned income	-	49,515	-	93,700
Salaries and expenses	(35,407)	(34,080)	(71,467)	(178,131)
Administrative costs	(6,196)	(222,059)	(227,256)	(476,595)
At 31 December 2006	<u>(19,352)</u>	<u>53,174</u>	<u>32,453</u>	<u>222,378</u>

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Changes to procedures for the election of Directors

Agenda Item: 1.2007.04(a)

### Background

In 2003, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Board agreed to put a proposal to the AGM with regard to changing the way in which Directors are elected to the Board. However, for some reason there was no provision made for a tie in an election, and it is therefore necessary to look again at the procedures laid down.

I have summarised the current procedures and have included in bold an additional clause needed to take account of tied votes.

### Number of Directors

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Board will consist of 10 Directors, each of whom will be a representative of a Fèis.

In addition, there will be a mechanism to have a non-voting observer from each of the following bodies:

- Scottish Arts Council
- The Highland Council
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig

### Representation

On a proportional basis, taking into account the geographical spread of the Fèisean, the following is the breakdown of the number of area representatives:

- 2 from the Western Isles
- 4 from The Highland Council area
- 1 from the Argyll & Bute Council area
- 3 from the other areas in which Fèisean take place

### The election procedure

Changes to the procedures for electing Board Members were required in order to (a) create a mechanism to ensure turnover of members of the Board, with a certain number standing down each year, and (b) allow Fèisean which could be represented at the Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM to make nominations, and have a vote.

The new election procedures were agreed as follows (with the new suggested clause on bold):

- Those required to stand down from the Board at the end of their term would be identified.
- The number of vacancies on the Board would be 'advertised' throughout the Fèis movement, through communication with all Fèis committee members, and an article in our newsletter.
- Interested parties would receive a role description.
- Each nominee would be required to submit an application, which may, if desired, include 100 words of background information – a personal statement – outlining their interest and what they think they could bring to the Board - for inclusion in the election ballot papers.
- After the closing date for nominations, ballot papers would be drawn up outlining each candidate, which Fèisean they are being nominated by, and their 'personal statement'.
- All Fèisean would be sent the ballot papers, and the election would be carried out by post, with each Fèis having a number of votes equivalent to the number of vacancies in any one year.
- The members elected to serve on the Board would be those who gain the highest number of votes to fill the available places: i.e. the top 2 from the Western Isles, the top 4 from the Highland Council area, the top 1 from Argyll & Bute, and the top 3 from other areas, or whichever area vacancies require to be filled in the election.
- **In the event of a tie after the election, there should be a further vote by the Board members, to decide which candidate would serve on the Board.**
- The election, and vote counting, should be overseen by an independent scrutineer.

The simplest solution to get over a tie situation is as described above, whereby the Board members would vote and the person polling the largest number of votes would be elected.

There are perhaps other ways that Board members would like to propose, but this item should be read in conjunction with item 1.2007.05(c) later in the Board papers.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Director  
February 2007

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Blas Festival Ltd

Agenda Item: 1.2007.04(b)

### Background

The Blas Festival has been run successfully by Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2 years, and we have a service level agreement with the Highland Council to deliver the festival in return for a certain amount of funding, at present £105k per annum.

Blas is effectively a partnership between the Highland Council, the Promoters' Arts Network (PAN) and Fèisean nan Gàidheal. At present, its day-to-day management is contracted out to Donna Cunningham, Brian Ó hEadhra and Cailean Maclean, who look after various aspects of the festival.

An Action Group consisting of Fèis organisers, Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff and representatives of PAN meets regularly to programme the festival and makes recommendations to the Steering Group. This group is chaired by David Boag.

The Steering Group is made up of Highland Councillors, FnG Staff, HIE and HI~Arts staff and a PAN representative. This group is chaired by the council's current chair of Education, Culture & Sport, Cllr Andy Anderson.

It has been recommended to us that we set up a separate company because of VAT implications, and to protect Fèisean nan Gàidheal's charitable status. While there is no VAT on grant income, there is on any sponsorship and since that, along with ticket sales would take us over the VAT threshold on non-charitable trading, we need to set up a separate limited trading company that will be VAT registered.

### Progress to date

- A company with the name Blas Festival Ltd has been formed and incorporated at Companies House with the registration number SC 308889.
- At present Angus Nicolson, our accountant, who formed the company on our behalf, is the sole director.
- I have asked Douglas Graham of Macleod and MacCallum to draw up a set Memorandum and Articles of Association for the new company.
- Angus Nicolson is in the process of registering the company for VAT.
- It is the intention that all Blas transactions will be through the new company from 1 April 2007.

### Discussion points for the Board

It is proposed that the Steering Group is disbanded and becomes the Board of Directors of the new company. The question for the Board is what the make-up of the new Board should be.

The Highland Council wants to retain an input and would like to have two councillors on the new Board, to be nominated after the council election.

In my view, Fèisean nan Gàidheal should retain control, and take ownership, of the festival and the company should in some way acknowledge the importance of PAN to Blas, so I would recommend that:

- The Chair should be a nominee of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- Two additional Board members should be nominees of Fèisean nan Gàidheal (these need not be FnG Board members but people nominated to represent the Board, i.e. staff or past members of the Board who have an active interest in the festival).
- Two Board members should be nominated by The Highland Council from its membership, following the May 2007 election.
- One Board member should be nominated by the Promoters' Arts Network.

In addition, Fèisean nan Gàidheal should be contracted by the new company to manage the festival, in return for a management fee, and the Board should, if possible, meet only twice a year, and should invite observers

from the other bodies who attend current Steering Group meetings - effectively taking over its work - without the need for Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff to service another body.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Director  
February 2007



# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Staff Reports

Agenda Item: 4.2006.05(a)

### Arthur Cormack, Director

#### Introduction

After a short lull following the New Year, the activities of the organisation have taken off again, and we have become extremely busy.

The end of the year was marked by the success of Fèisean nan Gàidheal – the fèis movement – winning Community Project of the Year at the Scots Traditional Music Awards.

#### Finance

We have now signed a contract with Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) and expect to be paid the first instalment of funding before the Board meeting. The funding will be paid out on the basis of independent certification by our accounts of expenditure, and now that the process is started, we should be able to claim quarterly hereafter.

HIE issued a press release announcing the funding which was carried by the Press & Journal, Inverness Courier, An Gàidheal Ur and the John O' Groats Journal that I know of. I also took part in an interview on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal along with Alasdair Macleod from HIE on the day of the announcement.

The position with the Scottish Arts Council has become a bit clearer following a meeting with Ian Smith and Jim Tough in Edinburgh on 13 February, and it now seems as if we will be in receipt of:

- £250k Foundation funding
- £100k lottery Funding for our grants scheme
- £60k 'one-off' funding from 2006-07 end-of-year funds
- £20k towards our training programme
- £15k towards the employment of a Development Officer for Fèisean not within the Highlands, Western Isles or Argyll & Bute
- Discussions will also take place within SAC about a contribution from the drama department towards our Gaelic drama developments

Agreed funding has been coming in as expected in the past quarter, but we have had minor cash-flow difficulties due in the main to the delay in payment of HIE funds. While we negotiated an overdraft facility with the bank, we also claimed in a lot of the funding due to us and we have not had to avail ourselves of the overdraft as yet. Further details are included in the financial report.

#### Staffing

- Ingrid Henderson goes on maternity leave on 2 March, and will be replaced by Fiona Ironside, who has been organising the YMI visits to Lochaber schools on behalf of the local Fèisean. She will be offered a 6-month contract initially, continuing from month-to-month until Ingrid's intentions are known.
- John Joe MacNeil has relinquished his part-time post at Fèis Bharraigh, in order to continue studying to become a teacher.
- Following the review of staff salaries and contracts, all staff were issued with draft contracts in January, and while there were some minor adjustments, all have been agreed to, and will be issued for signing as soon as possible.
- There was a staff get-together in Oban on 14 December but I was unable to attend.
- Staff Gaelic Grammar training days took place on 5 and 19 December which were very well put together by Gilleasbuig Ferguson, and which will be continued on a regular basis.
- I have begun early discussions with colleagues about a restructuring or redeployment of staff, and once we have something to recommend, we will bring a detailed proposal to the Board for discussion and approval.

#### Youth Music Initiative

The Highland Council Youth Music Initiative contract seemed as if it would be running over budget, so providers have been asked to make savings in their remaining provision for this session to bring things back into line. Apart from that the classes in schools have been going extremely well.

Chris Rasdale was replaced at Fèis Rois by Allison Watson, who took up her post as the Fèis Rois Education Officer in the new year.

Our other contact with East Lothian Council is being run successfully, and impeccably, by Keith Graham of Fèis Dhùn Èideann.

### **Blas**

The programme for Blas 2007 is now up on the newly-revamped website [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com). There's still a bit of tidying up to do, and the Gaelic part of the site has still to go live, but tickets are now on sale, and are selling already!

### **Gaelic Arts Strategic Development - GASD**

GASD's work is ongoing and we are organising a Gaelic Arts Conference, to be held in Stornoway on 8 and 9 May. The first 3 years of funding is now committed, and the group is looking at making bids for further funding to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Scottish Arts Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

### **Traditional Music Forum**

The next meeting of the forum, which is made up of representatives from the main traditional music organisations in Scotland, will be held in Edinburgh on 5 March. A promotional DVD has been produced for the forum, and they are discussing with SQA and LTScotland, the possibility of assisting in the production of educational resources.

### **Contact with the Fèisean**

- I have been in touch with all Fèisean by letter and in disseminating information
- I attended the Fèis Thrànaidh in Inverness for one day, and it was a good opportunity to meet with Fèis representatives.
- I was in touch with all fèisean with information about the election of Board members for Fèisean nan Gàidheal
- I met with Fèis Spè on 4 December along with David Boag and Nicola Marshall, to discuss future developments.
- I conducted an interview, along with Marion MacDonald of Fèis Lochabair, for Ingrid Henderson's replacement.
- I have been in contact with Fèis Ghleann Albainn to discuss how we might be able to organise a showcase concert as part of their NessFest in August.
- I have organised a meeting of the Fèis organisers and staff involved in Blas, for Fort William on 22 February to discuss future Fèis involvement, to ensure its place within the programme.
- I am also due to attend a meeting of the Lochaber Fèisean Steering Group in Fort William on 22 February.

### **Meetings and other events attended**

- 7 December: Blas Action Group meeting in Inverness
- 24 January: Blas Steering Group meeting at the Highland Council
- 31 January: meeting with Argyll & Bute Council officials to discuss our service level agreement with the authority
- 6 February: Blas Action Group meeting (via Skype)
- 8 February: GASD meeting in Edinburgh
- 12 February: Executive Group meeting and meeting with David and Anne at Cluanie.
- 13 February: Meeting of foundation funded organisations to discuss SAC Quality Framework
- 13 February: Meeting with Ian Smith and Jim Tough of SAC to discuss funding
- 15 February: Meeting with David Boag, Donna Cunningham Brian Ó hEadhra and Cailean Maclean to agree Blas contracts and programme of work
- 16 February: Meeting with Rae MacEachern for update of YMI activities.
- 23 February: Presentation to Highland Council Gaelic Committee, meeting at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

## **David Boag, Development Manager**

### **Introduction**

Everybody at Fèisean nan Gàidheal have been busy over the last few months, in particular submitting claims and final reports to funding bodies. I more or less completed mine before the Christmas holidays, and when I returned, I began to work on applications for new projects in the coming year and beyond. As with the rest of the team, I was on leave for two weeks at Christmas and New Year.

### **Managing Staff**

I manage all of the Inverness staff on a daily basis, plus Fiona MacInnes in Stornoway, Christine MacIntyre in Argyll and John Joe MacNeil in Barra. I gave Fèis Bharraigh a little help with applications they made to Highland2007 and to Lloyds TSB.

### **Gaelic Developments**

The 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 was the deadline for annual applications to Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This involved a great deal of work, and I hope that we get the funding for projects this coming year. The fact that Highlands and Islands Enterprise has committed three years of funding towards some of these projects is a very positive move, and should hopefully add strength to this application.

Douglas Beck has been busy organising the Meanbh-Chuileag tour together, with support from Calum Alex MacMillain. Calum Alex is himself busy assisting Fèisean with enabling their Gaelic plans.

I attended two Gaelic grammar sessions for staff in Portree, 5<sup>th</sup> December and Inverness, 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Blas Festival**

I am the chair of the Blas action group and we have been very active putting the final touches to plans for the 2007 festival. This is now available on line at [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com).

We are very pleased with the programme, especially as there are plenty opportunities for Fèis young people to take part in the festival. The biggest task we have at the moment is to sell tickets and there is a great offer on the website just now to buy cheaper tickets. This "Early Bird" offer is on-line now – tell all your friends!

I attended Blas meetings on 21 November, 7 December and 24 January and met with representatives of the Clydesdale Bank on 20 December. I also represented Blas (and Fèisean nan Gàidheal) at the traditional music awards in Fort William, 2 December.

### **Fèis Development Fund**

I finally launched this scheme on 24 November and I am happy to report that we have been able to support 21 projects at a total cost of £57,621.25 for the £15,000 that we have in the fund. I will shortly launch the 2007-8 scheme for projects starting in the new financial year. This scheme has been very successful in allowing Fèisean to run new, interesting projects and I am hopeful that the new scheme will be just as successful.

### **Archiving Project**

At long last I got the chance to submit an application for this project to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is a three year project and we are looking for £50,000 from the fund. Apparently there is a great deal of pressure on their budgets, but I am confident that we have done our best with this application.

### **Meetings and co-operation with other organisations**

- Fèisean nan Gàidheal board meeting, Inverness, 7 December.
- Met with representatives of the Cairngorms National Park and the local community at Lonach Hall to discuss plans for a Cèilidh Trail, 30 November.
- I attended the launch of the Fèis book and the Traditional Music Awards in Fort William, 2 December.
- Attended the opening of the Fèis na h-Òige "Months of the year" banner project at Inverness railway station, 10 January.
- I attended the youth concert at Celtic Connections featuring Fèis Rois at Celtic Connections, Glasgow, 19 January.

### **Fèis Visits**

- Met with Tamara Hedderwick from the Isle of Coll to discuss plans for a Fèis there, 11 January.
- Fèis Obar Dheathain committee meeting, 16 January.

- Met with Fèis Mhoireibh (new Fèis) in Elgin, 23 January.
- Attended the Fèisean nan Gàidheal training market, Inverness, 4 February.

### **Iona MacDonald, Training Development Officer**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has received confirmation that they have been successful in their application for funding from the European Social Fund for 2007. The assistance will be in the region of £40K.

#### **Information on courses**

- This year, we have already run a training conference for fèis organisers, on 3 & 4 February in Inverness. Over 50 people participated each day, and 21 workshops ran during the two days. Various different subjects were covered, such as computing, history, first aid, art, accounting, and running a fèis. According to the feedback, most people were satisfied with the way the event progressed.
- The next Level 1 & 2 Tutor Training will take place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on 17/18 February 2007. The course is already full with 30 participants.
- Ceòl Beag – Port Rìgh – 18/19 An t-Samhain – postponed. To be re-arranged.
- School of Scottish Studies – next date to be arranged.
- In the meantime, long-running courses such as the Access to Gaelic course (SMO), staff development and forward development of the plan are taking place.

#### **Other Work**

TMTTN – currently producing support materials for the delivery of the Certificate in Music Tuition in colleges.

GASD – currently working on training needs and professional development for personnel within the Gaelic Arts.

### **Nicola Marshall, Development Officer**

I enjoyed a break over the Christmas and New Year period but before the holiday, myself and the other support workers finished the new handbook for Fèisean 'How to organise a Fèis' and copies have been distributed to all the Fèisean. The beginning of January was very busy with finishing the Fèis na h-Òige art project 'Mìosan na bliadhna' and I am happy to say that the banners are now on display in Inverness railway station. In addition to this I have been working closely with Fèis Gleann Albainn supporting their project NessFest and myself and David continue to work with Fèis Spè to develop a Cairngorm Ceilidh Trail. As well as these special projects I am kept busy with my usual Fèis work.

#### **Fèisean**

##### **Fèis a 'Bhaile**

I attended a meeting with Feis a' Bhaile this week and having not been in touch with them lately it was good to catch up. Maree Nicolson has taken on additional annualised hours for the Fèis and I hope that we will develop some new projects in the coming months.

##### **Fèis a' Bhealaich**

I have not had a lot of contact with Fèis a' Bhealaich but it was good to see comataidh member Katie MacLellan at the recent Fèis Training weekend. The committee have received funding from the development fund to progress their DVD project.

##### **Fèis Chataibh**

Fèis Chataibh have recently employed a new support worker, Christine Ross. Christine and the committee are busy preparing for their main Feis which will take place in the first week of the summer holidays as usual. Myself and Calum Alex attend their last committee meeting to get an up-date on activities and to discuss the opportunities for the G-Team.

##### **Fèis Chille Mhoraig**

Fèis Chille Mhòrag held their AGM at the end of November and it was agreed, due to committee commitments, that the Fèis will take a new format this year. The committee will run two workshop days similar to the one that I assisted with a couple of years ago. The Feis also hope to set up an art project in the near future.

### Fèis an Earraich

In November a group from Fèis an Earraich continued their links with Armagh with a return visit which was really enjoyed by all. The committee are working on the main Fèis which will take place in Portree Primary in the Easter holidays. Auditions for this year's Ceilidh Trail will take place at the Fèis and I will be working with the committee on this in the next wee while.

### Fèis Gleann Albainn

Fèis Gleann Albainn are busy as ever. Their follow-on classes continue to run regularly and they are also working on a large project called NessFest for Highland 2007 . In addition to this they will be holding their annual adult Fèis this weekend.

### Fèis Inbhir Narann

g away as usual. They continue to run weekly classes and the main Fèis will take place in the Autumn. The committee are planning to purchase a computer for the Fèis and have received money from the FnG development fund towards it.

### Fèis na h-Òige

As mentioned above the display for Highland 2007 is now up in the railway station and I have received a lot of very positive feedback about the project. In the coming months there will be a series of Saturday workshops and the committee are looking at various ideas for fundraising. The main Fèis will take place in the first week of the school summer holidays as usual.

### Fèis Spè

As with Fèis na h-Òige, Fèis Spè are working on a project for Highland 2007 which will culminate with a concert from past and present Fèis Spè participants which will take place in June. I am continuing to work with the committee and the CNPA to create a Cairngorm Ceilidh Trail for this summer. Regular classes are on-going as is the YMI in schools.

### Fèis Farr

I have had no contact with Fèis Farr in the last couple of months although they continue to run their monthly workshops.

### Fèis Thròdairnis

Fèis Thròdairnis is not undertaking any activity at present.

### Fèis Ratharsaidh

Fèis Ratharsaidh will take place this weekend.

### Fèis Rois

Fèis Rois kicked off this year's activities with a very successful concert featuring present and former participants at Celtic Connections. At the moment they are working towards the junior Fèis in April and the adult Fèis in May. Allison Watson has taken over from Chris Rasdale and is continuing the programme of YMI classes.

### Fèis Air an Oir

Fèis Air an Oir are still running their on-going classes and it was good to meet up with Carol-Anne Mackey who attended the training weekend on behalf of the Fèis.

### Fèis Alba

I will be working on Fèis Alba over the next couple of months and I am looking forward to confirming the team of tutors in the next few weeks. I hope that participants of the new Cairngorm Ceilidh Trail will attend this year.

## **Meetings & events in addition to regular meetings**

### **November**

- 23 Meeting with Maree & Katie, Fèis a' Bhaile
- 30 Meeting with CNPA +Leader+, Strathdon

### **December**

- 4 Meeting with Fèis Spè & Arthur Cormack
- 5 Grammar Course, Portree
- 7 Blas meeting

- 14 Staff Training, Connel
- 19 Grammar Course part 2, Inverness

### **January**

- 10 Fèis na h-Òige Banner project
- 16 Meeting with Maria MacRae, South Laggan
- 23 Meeting with Judith & Elspeth, Fèis Spè
- 31 Meeting with Ingrid Henderson, Fort William

### **February**

- 3 Fèis Thrèanaidh
- 4 Fèis Thrèanaidh
- 6 Blas Meeting, Inverness
- 7 Meeting with Bill Skeoch
- 11 Launch of NessFest, Fort Augustus

### **Ingrid Henderson, Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer**

A busy work period as ever although three weeks holiday over Christmas and New Year was gratefully received! General Feis work is ticking over in the area; Feis Oigridh na Mara and Feis Lochabair seem to be the most active just now in terms of planning either for main events or starting up new projects such as song writing and group work but Garbh Chrìochan and Eige will be gearing up soon for their Summer events as well as involvement in Highland 2007 activities.

Although new developments are ongoing as ever in this period, I'm also conscious of leaving older projects and day to day work in an organised state for my maternity cover. I'm pleased to say that this post has now been filled and Fèisean nan Gaidheal and the Steering group have appointed the YMI Lochaber worker, Fiona Ironside to take the reins. She will start officially in March but she will work in the office with me and attend relevant meetings throughout February in order to learn the ropes and meet as many of the Fèisean people as possible.

### **Cèilidh Trail Project**

I have now completed all the claims for Leader+ and Lochaber Enterprise funding which brings to a close their part in the project. They are pleased with all the outcomes and delighted that the scheme will continue on with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise through Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

I have already started work on the timeline for the 2007 Trail and initial information and letters to prospective participants will go out this week in order that we can have them appointed by March.

### **Blas**

I continue to attend meetings representing Lochaber's interest in the Festival. In this period most meetings have been to do with artist and venue choices and selecting the new commission and now that the programme is announced we will turn to more logistical issues and later on planning for 2008. The line up and tickets are available online at [blas-festival.com](http://blas-festival.com).

### **Youth Music Initiative and other schools work**

The final teaching block for the 06/07 term is now complete for mainland schools and we are in the process of collecting feedback from the sessions. Apart from a few teething problems the scheme is going well and youngsters and teachers are enjoying the experience. Fiona will look to programming the Small Isle schools in the Summer timetable if possible.

As part of the Highland 2007 celebrations schools have been asked to run extra cultural activity for next year and all of the Lochaber clusters have made an approach to me at the office to help with this provision. After drafting up rough costs and proposals for all four to use in their planning meetings, I have only had confirmation back from the Mallaig area that they wish to proceed with a song writing project in partnership with Feis Oigridh na Mara. A positive meeting with them in February has confirmed details and workshops will run in all their schools in May, rehearsals in October and a final performance in November. The schools will fully fund the activities which will be programmed and run along similar lines to the YMI scheme.

I am still awaiting decisions from the other clusters but Rosemary Bridge (Head of Education, Lochaber) is helping to chase them.

## Project Applications

Fèis	Funding Body	Detail	Amount	Stage
Òigridh na Mara	FnG Development Fund	Instrument purchase	913	Successful
Òigridh na Mara	<b>Awards for All</b>	Instrument purchase and workshops	£8500	Secured £5000 and running.
Garbh Chrìochan	Awards for All	Shinty Equipment	£2000	Awaiting result.
Eige	Awards for All	Instrument purchase	Approx £1500	Awaiting result.
Glenfinnan 07	Awards for All	Gaelic classes and culture events	£9000	In process. Awaiting result.
Feisean Lochabar	FnG Development Fund	High School promotional concert	£300	Awaiting result.
Oigridh na Mara	FnG Development Fund	Laptop and printer	£850	Awaiting result.

### Glenfinnan2007

I have been helping to support the Glenfinnan Community Council group set up to run cultural activities in the village this year. Help has included filling out application forms, sharing forms and advertising templates used for Fèisean, passing on tutor contacts and helping source instruments where Fèisean have spare for hire. I have also advised on their youth events and in the future Feis Lochabar or Feis nan Garbh Chrìochan may be contracted to deliver some provision.

### Other

The Cèilidh Trailers and volunteers from the Lochabar Fèisean had a successful night when the **Scots Trad Music Awards** came to Fort William in December. Despite a heavier than expected workload on the Feis helpers the night was felt to be successful and we look forward to the event in 2007. Thanks again to those involved.

Northern Periphery Project – This scheme is drawing to a close in March and the Fèisean along with Lochabar Music School and the Community Music Groups have been feeding into the final tie up over the last few months. The Social Audit element has required background information on Feis activities which I have managed to supply to the consultant, Tor Justad. As a follow on from this Community Business Project, we have employed Bryan Beattie to conduct a feasibility study to identify key needs of music groups in the area with a view to developing a Lochabar Music Partnership if appropriate. This could include support for advertising, running events and may even push the need for a music rehearsal/ teaching space and venue in the remaining part of the school hostel.

HIE Lochabar – As part of my directorship role I have been to two meetings this session, one of which was more focussed on the 2007 cultural activities and their impact on business in Lochabar. In order to make best use of director's time and expertise moves are being made at present to structure meetings more constructively and assign us to certain topics within our field. I have already been consulted by the LEC staff about various proposals for cultural events and plans for this year which has proved very useful.

### Attended meetings/events:

December	2	Working at, and attending, the Scots Trad Music Awards, Fort William
	4	Meeting with Bryan Beattie and Lochabar Music Groups, Camaghael
	4	Mod07 liaison meeting, Fort William
	5	Training day, Gaelic grammar, Portree
	6	Attended meeting with Glenfinnan 07 group.
	7	Attended cultural arts conference with NPP partners, Fort William
	18	Meeting with Fèis Òigridh na Mara, Mallaig
	19	Attended NPP meeting, Camaghael
	19	Attended Lochabar Enterprise Meeting, Fort William
	January	16
16		Attended Fèis Lochabair meeting, Camaghael

	25	NPP Meeting on Social Auditing, Camaghael
	26	Meeting with Eileen O' Rua, Glenfinnan 07
	26	Meeting with Niki, Fèis Òigridh na Mara, Mallaig
	26	Meeting with Fiona, YMI, Mallaig
	30	Attended HIE Lochaber induction meeting, Fort William
	31	Working with Nicola Marshall, Camaghael
February	2 –4	Attended Feis training weekend, Inverness
	5	Attended Mallaig School cluster meeting, Mallaig High School
	6	Blas Meeting, Inverness

### **Fiona MacInnes, Support Worker**

Things were relatively quiet on the Western Isles Fèis front at the end of last year, but the committees were busy at the beginning of the year, completing the FNG grant application and the development fund forms. I gave assistance to the ones that requested it and attended meetings whenever possible.

Over the next few months, I will be assisting and advising the Fèis committees where it is needed, in particular helping to organise their summer Fèisean. There were no Western Isles representatives in attendance at the FNG training weekend on 3/4 February, and this was unfortunate since they did lose an opportunity to participate in an array of training workshops and to meet and network with the other Fèisean. This will mean that a Western Isles regional training weekend will be planned and held within the next few months.

I am also going to be busy over the next month, visiting and assisting schools that are involved in the Lewis and Harris drama project, and all their performances will be seen in the Lanntair, in Stornoway, on the evening of Tuesday 13 March.

### **Fèis Bharraigh**

- In contact with FB Support worker and the admin worker.
- The Fèis will be from the 15th until 21st July.

### **Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich**

- Attended AGM on 30 November and a meeting on 6 Feb
- Met chairperson on 6 December re grant forms
- The Fèis will be from 23 – 27 July

### **Fèis Eilean na Hearadh**

- In contact with admin worker by telephone and email.
- The summer Fèis will be held 9 – 13 July.

### **Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh**

- In contact with admin worker by telephone and email.
- Ceòl Nis will take place earlier this year from 3rd until 7th July

### **Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain**

- I have been in contact with the new committee and admin worker
- The Fèis will take place this year in Iochdar School from 9 – 13 July.

### **Fèis Tìr an Eòrna**

- Attended a meeting on 9 January
- Met the secretary on 30 January in Sgoil Lionacleit to discuss training courses.
- The Fèis will be held during the first week of July (2 – 6 July).

### **Fèis an Rubha**

- The committee are planning to meet on 20 Feb.
- The Fèis will be held from 6-10 August

## **Other**

- I visited primary schools to discuss and to do some drama re PDLH – Leverhulme School and Aird School on 29 November
- I attended a work grammar course in Inverness on 19 December

## **Christine MacIntyre, Support Worker**

### **Duties to date**

- Attended a two day training event at Inverness
- Attended staff meetings/Gaelic Grammar course
- Seeking funding for YMI application
- Seeking increased funding from Argyll & Bute Council
- Assisting fèisean with grant applications etc
- Attended meetings with the majority of my fèisean

### **Fèis Arainn (Arran)**

Unfortunately this year's fèis has had to be cancelled due to relocation to the new High School being the same week as the Fèis. After consultation with various people in North Ayrshire Council, Sandy Gray and I, it was decided that the safety implications were too great for the fèis to go on at the same time as the relocation. However, Fèis Arran also have a continuous fiddle class and it was therefore decided to assist them with a week-end workshop instead just for this year.

### **Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar (West Dumbarton)**

Previous minor problems seem to have been ironed out and the fèis is on target to continue this year.

### **Fèis Innis an Uillt (Meadowburn)**

They are busy organizing a series of one day and half day events. A two day fèis event is definitely in the offing for next year. In the meantime, they have also started a shinty team and a league and are hoping to join forces with Fèis Lannraig a Tuath to strengthen the shinty element

### **Fèis Latharna (Oban)**

They sent an application to YMI last December which was turned down, however not ones to easily give up, they have re-submitted it and are presently awaiting the result!

### **Fèis Lannraig a Tuath (North Lanarkshire)**

They are busy finalising this year's fèis and are running at 99% with their Gaelic tutors. Next year will almost certainly be a purely Gaelic fèis. They are also working closely with Fèis Innis a Uillt (Meadowburn) on the shinty side.

### **Fèis Mhuile (Mull)**

They have a new committee (again!) They are consulting with those in the Ross of Mull if it is feasible to have a fèis in the Ross and hold classes in the North

### **Fèis Òigridh Ile agus Dhiùra (Islay and Jura)**

Now in its third year, they have joined up with the island of Jura so that they have a full week-long event. This is due to take place next week.

### **Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu (Glasgow Drama Fèis)**

I suspect this fèis is about to alter next year. I spoke to the Glasgow Gaelic School Head who said that at the moment they had sufficient funds themselves to run this year's feis. However, she added that she wanted to change the format next year, so watch this space!

### **Fèis Chile Chonbhail (Inverclyde)**

This fèis is usually split between East Renfrew, Neilston and Barhead. I understand that things have altered slightly for this year. The perennial problem in this area is the lack of an identifiable venue close to a Gaelic speaking/interested populous.

### **Fèis Ghlaschu (Glasgow)**

This year the venue has moved into the CCA in Glasgow city centre as this fèis continues to grow.

### **Fèis Thiriodh (Tiree)**

A slight committee change but expect it to be well organized as usual.

### **Fèis Cheann Loch Goill (Lochgoilhead)**

This year they are organizing a two-day residential fèis at the Ardroy Centre Lochgoilhead. This is a new venture and already has attracted some interest throughout the Cowal peninsula.

### **New Projects**

**Fèis Dhràma Earra Ghàidheil:** Although into its second year, this drama fèis now has 7 schools taking part. The general consensus from the children is that they would like it to be competitive!

I attended a meeting with Argyll Council and NYCOS (National Youth Chorus of Scotland) they are going to organize workshops for teachers and other interested parties with a view to assisting in the organization of a branch of the Youth chorus that would be devoted to Gaelic Song.

Along with Islay, Jura and Colonsay, we are investigating the possibility of having a musician in residence to cover the three islands. Early stages yet.

### **Dougie Beck, Gaelic Officer (Dràma)**

#### **Meanbh-chuileag**

Myself and Deirdre Graham are on the road just now with "Le Meas", our latest play. After rehearsals in both Skye and Uist, the touring started in Uist in December, with Coll MacDonald playing the part of Chris, a boy from Glasgow who gets to Maram (Deirdre), a girl from Afghanistan. Coll was also with us in Islay, Tiree and Mull during the week of 22 January.

We didn't spend much time in Islay (we went on the morning ferry and returned in the evening), but we had to spend two nights in Tiree because of the ferry timetables at this time of year. On top of the play, we also did drama workshops with all the children in the primary school.

Similarly, in Mull, we travelled over on the morning boat and returned during the afternoon via Lochaline.

In Islay and Mull I conducted workshops for the Argyll Drama Project (see below).

We have had problems finding an actor to play the part of Chris, and since Coll is unable to carry on, I am now playing this character.

To date, we have performed the play to over 400 children. During the week of 29 January we were in Fort William, Oban, Mallaig, Central Primary (Inverness) and Newtonmore. We were then in Tain, Gairloch, Lochcarron, Dingwall, Ullapool, Aberdeen and Cumbernauld (Condorrat) during the week of 5 February.

We will be in Skye schools (and Plockton) during the week of 12 February, and in Glasgow area schools the week of 19 February (East Kilbride, Kilmarnock, Greenock, Glasgow, Bishopbriggs and Dunoon).

We will be in Lewis and Harris for just over a week from 5 March, and we will then be in Edinburgh, Perth and Stirling near the end of March.

All teachers have said that the play works very well, and that the children are getting a benefit from it. In addition to the play itself, the pupils get a workshop which pick up on the themes of the play.

### **Drama Projects**

#### **Argyll Drama Project**

As can be seen from Christine's report, the Argyll Drama project is on the go again, and 7 schools are taking part. I have visited four schools (Islay, Mull, Fort William and Mallaig) to help them with their plays, and I will be visiting them again to do some more work with them.

## **Lewis and Harris Drama Project**

We have had problems getting a drama specialist to carry out the second set of workshops for this project, and we had to put the project back from December to January because of this. After trying many possibilities, we engaged Christina MacDonald, living in Point, to go to the schools. It appears that she did some very good work. There are now six schools taking part in the project, and they will all be coming together in March in An Lanntair in Stornoway to perform their plays.

It is evident that there is a lack of Gaelic-speaking drama tutors/actors, since it has not been at all easy to hire actors for Meanbh-chuileag or for the drama projects, and also the Fèisean are sometimes finding it difficult to find people who will do drama classes for them.

## **Other work**

- Myself and Calum Alex carried out a workshop at the training weekend, focussing on games and activities suitable for teaching Gaelic to Fèis participants. It appears that it went down well with those that attended.
- I carried out a workshop on Word and Photoshop in December.

## **The months ahead**

- A week in Edinburgh Castle taking children around on Gaelic tours
- A week at Culloden Battlefield, performing a living history play for the National Trust.
- A Gaelic day in Dunoon for the Cowall Gaelic Partnership. I will also be talking to them about setting up a Fèis in the area.

## **Calum Alex MacMillan, Gaelic Officer**

### Sgioba-G and meetings

Although the G-team has not attended any Fèisean over the past three months I have been busy with meetings with some Fèisean. I have also been preparing new resources for the G-team in preparation for future Fèisean.

### Fèis Chataibh

At the beginning of the year Nicola and I went to a meeting with the committee of Fèis Chataibh. They were wanting more information about G-team and how it could work at their Fèis. They agreed that it would be beneficial to have help from the G-team to help with the Gaelic input at their Fèis in July.

### Fèis Obar Dheathain

David and I went to Aberdeen for a meeting with the Fèis committee. They are busy preparing for their Fèis which will be held on the 17-19 February. The G-team will be present at the Fèis and Anna Wombwell and myself will be running the programme of activities. I have been preparing teaching plans and gathering new resources for the activities we will be running.

### Fèis an Earraich

At the training fèis at the beginning of February I had the opportunity of speaking with Kirsteen Graham from Fèis an Earraich. The committee there were wanting help with some ideas with their Gaelic programme for the children. Their Fèis runs for the week of 2-6 April and I am going to help them with teaching plans and resources for Gaelic activities.

### Meeting with Tamara Hedderwick

David and I met with Tamara Hedderwick from the Isle of Coll. She is wanting to start a Fèis on the island and was wanting to find out more about how to do this. I spoke to her about Gaelic at Fèisean and also about the work the Sgioba-G does at Fèisean. They are hoping to keep a Fèis in May and David and I are planning to visit Coll and the new committee to assist them with their plans.

### Future work

In the coming months I am going to be working as part of the G-team at some Fèisean and I am also hoping to get the opportunity to meet with more Fèisean to discuss Gaelic plans and the G-team. I will also be working on new resources and activities for the G-team and I am very grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for the funding they gave us to buy six new computers for G-team activities.

### **Translations**

I was present at the last Board meeting in December and provided the translations for the board members, although it took a while to get used to this I soon got used to it and I enjoyed doing it.

I have also been working on translations for some Fèisean. It is usually for press-releases that they ask for help with, but I have also been working on applications forms, posters and also pieces for people to present at events.

### **The Book**

I was at the launch of the new Fèis book in Fort William at the beginning of December. The afternoon was very enjoyable and in the evening I attended the Traditional Music awards which were also very enjoyable.

### **Meanbh Chuileag**

I have been helping Dougie with some of the planning for the Meanbh Chuileag tour. I helped with preparations of a timetable, phoning schools and writing up plans for the first part of the tour.

### **Grammar Days**

I was present at the two Grammar days which Gilleasbuig Ferguson taught. The first day in Skye and the second day in Inverness. These days were very enjoyable and also very helpful.

### **Training Fèis**

I was also present at the Training Fèis which was held at the beginning of February in Inverness. It was a good opportunity to meet people from the different Fèis committees. Dougie and I ran a workshop of Gaelic activities on the Sunday morning. There were 20 present at our workshop and we went over some of the activities we run with G-team and we got all the participants to get involved with the games. We all had good fun trying out some of the activities.

### **Christopher DePlano, Communications & Marketing Officer**

By the end of December the Book project came to an end, with a celebratory book launch in Fort William at the Trad Music Awards. Amongst the guests in attendance were Kate Martin, Jim Tough from the Scottish Arts Council and MSP Rob Gibson. Around 30 guests in all attended.

Much work has been continuing with the Blas Website, which went live during the programme launch at Celtic Connections last month. Work for the website was carried out between the designers, Pelican Design in Portree, and the Blas Festival Team from the East. I received training from both Cailean Maclean and Pelican in order to make effective use of the web-content software, SiteKit CMS. I subsequently spent much time assigning content to the website and checking it's functions.

I recently received training in graphic-design software InDesign. If FnG agree to purchase this programme, I hope to pass on the skills I acquired to any interested staff members.

The next edition of Faileas will be out by the end of February. The publication was delayed somewhat due to various other commitments and the addition of a 4-page YMI special supplement. However, I hope that the next edition, due out in April, will be on time.

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Election of Directors

Agenda Item: 1.2007.05(c)

The election of Directors has taken a lot longer than normal this time round, and Board members will recall that **Laura Green** was elected as the only nominee from Fèisean in the Highland Council area, and will be joining us at the Board meeting.

At the time of the last Board meeting, two names had come from the Western Isles Fèisean, and therefore a further opportunity was given to Fèisean to elect representatives.

The two nominees were:

- **Peggy MacLennan** from Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich
- **Tommy MacDonald** from Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain

An election was held in the January and at the closing date each of the candidates had received 6 votes. As reported earlier under item 1.2007.04(a) no provision had been made in our election procedures to deal with a tie, and Board members are invited to decide what they would like to do in relation to this particular situation. There would seem to be at least 3 options:

- If 1.2007.04(a) is agreed by the Board, it would be up to the Board members to have a vote to decide which candidate will be offered a place on the Board.
- Given the circumstances, and the shortcomings in our election procedures, both candidates could be offered a place on the Board, but one would have to be co-opted.
- A re-election could take place.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Director  
February 2007



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