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# Feisean nan Gaidheal

The National Association of Gaelic Arts Youth Tuition Festivals

## *Aithisg Bhliadhnail 1994* *- Annual Report 1994 -*

**Feisean nan Gaidheal**  
**5 Mitchell's Lane**  
**Inverness**  
**IV2 3HQ**

**Telephone 0463 234138 Fax 0463 237470**

*A company limited by guarantee*  
*Registered Charity Number SC130071*

# **Feisean nan Gaidheal**

## **Aithisg Bhliadhnail 1994**

**- Annual Report 1994 -**

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# *Feisean nan Gaidheal*

## **Summary of work: June 1993-May 1994**

### *Background*

**Feisean nan Gaidheal** launched its long-awaited **Development Plan** on 16th November 1993 at Balnain House in Inverness. This outlines the plans of the organisation over the period from 1993-1997 and was drawn up in consultation with the Feisean, and the final draft approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting in Inverness on May 7th 1993. The projects should benefit all the Feisean.

### *Administration & Finance*

The Development Officer has been responsible for the day-to-day running of **Feisean nan Gaidheal**. The workload has increased significantly in the past year; the Development Officer being the only full-time worker for the company has to act as secretary and administrator as well as carrying out the developmental work.

The Financial Statement for 1993-94 produced by **Alex Graham C.A.** forms part of this report.

Funding for **Feisean nan Gaidheal** and the Feisean comes from a wide variety of sources and we are very grateful for the financial support of the following bodies in 1993-94:

**Scottish Arts Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise,  
Scottish Television, Grampian Television,  
Comataidh Telebhisein Gaidhlig,  
Lochaber LEADER, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise,  
Skye & Lochalsh District Council,  
Western Isles and Skye & Lochalsh LEADER,  
MacRobert Trusts**

### *The Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors met 5 times in 1993-94, and had to tackle various very important policy issues, including the best way forward for **Feisean nan Gaidheal** as an organisation.

One of the major issues was the future status of the organisation, who we should be supporting and who should be eligible for membership. After consultation with the members it was decided that **Feisean nan Gaidheal**

should seek status as a National Youth Organisation, offering support to the tuition-Feisean, one of the priorities being to strengthen the amount of Gaelic used at Feisean, and apply for Scottish Office core funding. This seems to be a possibility from 1995 onwards, and will be discussed with the members at the Annual General Meeting.

The other main issue was that of **Feisean nan Gaidheal** becoming a grant-giving body. Several of the major funders of Feisean have expressed a desire that **Feisean nan Gaidheal** should take on the role of funding agency for all the Feisean in order to make sure that the money is well spent (**Feisean nan Gaidheal**'s knowledge of the Feisean being better than theirs) and in order to cut down on the numbers of applications they have to deal with. This move would obviously have several implications for the organisation and will be fully discussed with the members at this year's Annual General Meeting.

The current board members following elections at last year's AGM are:

**John MacDonald (5/5), Chairman (Feis an Earraich)**

**Rita Hunter (4/5), Company Secretary (Feis Rois)**

**Margaret MacTaggart (4/5) (Feis Ile)**

**Maire MacPhail (3/5) (Feis Tir an Eorna)**

**Margaret Ann Beggs (2/5) (Feis Bharraigh)**

**Charlie Menzies (1/5) (Feis Chataibh)**

**Nan Smith (4/5) (Feis Eilean an Fhraoich)**

**Jim Morrison (5/5), Co-opted member (HRC Community Education)**

**Beathag Morrison (3/5), Co-opted member (Argyll & Bute Gaelic Officer)**

**Malcolm MacLean (4/5), Co-opted member (National Gaelic Arts Project)**

*The numbers in brackets indicate the attendance of Directors at meetings, out of a possible 5*

The Chair of the Board was taken over in September by **John MacDonald** having been left vacant at last year's AGM following the retirement of **Duncan MacLeod**, who happily has made a good recovery from his illness.

## ***Projects***

Over the year, **Feisean nan Gaidheal** has progressed the following projects:

***Follow-up tuition*** A programme of workshops for children was supported by **Feisean nan Gaidheal** and took place in Lochaber, Golspie, Skye & Lochalsh, Kingussie and Ross & Cromarty.

There is a strong possibility that **Feisean nan Gaidheal** will be able to provide a mix of funding for workshops, and actual workshops organised by **Feisean nan Gaidheal** in all areas throughout 1994-95.

***Training workshops*** Training workshops were held for tutors in Inverness (June 1993), Oban (January 1994) and Dingwall (February 1994). These identified a clear need for tutor representation on the Board of **Feisean nan**

**Gaidheal**, as well as provision of teaching materials and some way of perhaps ensuring the standard of work at Feisean.

Training workshops for Feis organisers were held in Oban (January 1994), Dingwall (February 1994) and Uist (May 1994). These looked primarily at funding for Feisean, but also how to run one, for the complete beginners, and how to develop the tuition throughout the year, beyond the time of the Feis.

Further training needs have been identified and there will be various workshops throughout 1994-95.

*Insurance* **Feisean nan Gaidheal** has been able, at long last, to secure blanket insurance for all the Feisean with **Norwich Union**. This provides basic employers' and public liability insurance, but does not cover instruments. These must be insured separately.

*Tutors' directory* The new tutors' directory is to be available from June 1994 and will be updated on a regular basis thereafter.

*Newsletter* **Feisean nan Gaidheal's** newsletter, *Faileas*, was resurrected in 1993 and to date 2 issues have been published. This will continue to be published on a regular basis, and contributions in Gaelic or English are always welcome.

*Feis handbook* Work has progressed on the handbook, and it will be ready by August 1994. The training workshops for Feis organisers were very helpful in identifying the type of information which would be required from such a publication.

*Local Feis Development Plans* **Feisean nan Gaidheal** will assist with the drawing up of Development Plans for individual Feisean, and the Development Officer has had meetings with several Feis committees who are now beginning to put together plans for their own Feis. This really is vital to ensure that solid arguments are in place for continued funding of your Feis.

*Musical instrument bank* An application to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts has still to be officially confirmed, but it does seem likely that **Feisean nan Gaidheal** is to receive a fairly large grant, partly for the provision of instruments. In addition **MacRobert Trusts** granted £2500.00 to us with which we have bought 2 clarsaich and 3 accordions. This will not go far, but it is a start. Contact the Development Officer for further information.

*Traditional music resources* **Feisean nan Gaidheal** has commissioned Val and Tom Bryan from Ullapool to bring our traditional music workbook a stage further, and the Scottish Arts Council have agreed a grant of £2500.00 towards its publication.

*Working with other bodies* The Development Officer has been engaged in a

great deal of research, visiting Feisean and linking with other bodies. The following is a summary of meetings, conferences and festivals attended by the Development Officer (not including Feisean):

**Regular meetings with NGAP employees**  
**Highland Regional Council Community Education**  
**Western Isles Feis representatives**  
**Meetings with the committees of Feisean**  
**Regular meetings with various funding bodies on behalf of the Feisean**  
**An Comunn Gaidhealach Mod Conference**  
**Highland Regional Council Committee on Gaelic Language and Culture**  
**ARIA: Sabhal Mor Ostaig**  
**HI-ARTS Consultative Forum**  
**Fionan Careers Convention, Fort William**  
**Strathclyde Regional Council**  
**Working Together Seminar, Oban**

*Cape Breton* An invitation has come to send representatives from **Feisean nan Gaidheal** to Cape Breton on a study visit, and some funding is in place for this. Dates have still to be set for the visit.

*BBC Children in Need* Children in Need have expressed an interest in funding for Feisean and the Development Officer attended a meeting in Stornoway with Fraser Falconer of the organisation to discuss ways in which they could help.

## *Feisean*

The Development Officer attended some of the Feisean in 1993/early 1994.

In addition, the Development Officer attended several committee meetings with various established Feisean, and communities wishing to start a Feis, throughout the year.

Minutes of all meetings of the **Feisean nan Gaidheal** Board and all other relevant papers are available to member-Feisean and members of **Feisean nan Gaidheal**. The newsletter, *Faileas*, has succeeded in bringing the main points from these meetings to the attention of a wider group and so it may not be as important to send out minutes of meetings to the Feisean, but rather ensure that the Feisean know they are available should they want them. Naturally, we will continue to send them to anyone who requests that we do so. Members should feel free at any time to contact the Development Officer or any Board member for any information pertaining to the organisation, and with any items for the agenda at Board meetings.

Funding for the Feisean is something we are all aware of at all times. Funding partners must be established for the Feisean, and **Feisean nan Gaidheal** has had, and will have a major part to play in co-ordinating fund-raising and

lobbying at a national and international level on behalf of the Feisean.

In conclusion, thanks must go the **National Gaelic Arts Project, Comunn na Gaidhlig** and **Highland Regional Council's Community Education Department** for their assistance both *in kind* and otherwise with the work of the Company throughout 1993-94. Thanks must also go to the members of **Feisean nan Gaidheal** and the **Directors** for their support, as well as **Kate Martin, Rita Hunter** and **Dougie Pincock** who led our workshops throughout the year, and Highland Regional Council's **JET Unit** in Portree, Skye, who updated our Tutors' directory.

We hope we can count on your continued support in 1994-95; **Feisean nan Gaidheal** belongs to the Feisean, and we are here to work on behalf of the membership. The Development Officer, **Arthur Cormack**, should be your first point of contact for **Feisean nan Gaidheal**. He is available at Quay Brae, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9DB, or by phone on 0478 612990 or fax on 0478 613263.

**John MacDonald**  
Chairman  
Feisean nan Gaidheal  
June 1994

# Feisean nan Gaidheal

## Management accounts

### *Trading account for the year to 31st March 1994*

	(12 months) 1994 £	(13 months) 1993 £
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Grant income	32227	40980
Membership fees	580	335
Bank interest	77	105
Other income	60	154
	-----	-----
	32944	41574
	-----	-----
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Development Officer fees	15000	12188
Development Officer expenses:		
Travel & Subsistence	6040	
Stationery & Postage	1138	
Telephone	603	
Fax	36	
	-----	
	7817	7817
Grant expenditure		4853
Salaries		2328
Accommodation, travel & subsistence		0
Stationery & printing		913
Bank charges		7838
Other expenses		384
Accountancy		2045
Depreciation		47
Music book fees		20
Workshops/seminars		1014
Tutors fees and expenses		209
		408
		311
		311
		0
		2000
		1096
		1265
		1671
		422
		-----
		37912
		-----
		35419
		-----
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>(4968)</b>	<b>6155</b>



# Feisean nan Gaidheal

## Management accounts

### *Balance sheet as at 31st March 1994*

		1994	1993
		£	£
<b><u>Fixed assets</u></b>			
Equipment		622	933
<b><u>Current assets</u></b>			
Debtors	4950		3650
Cash in hand and at bank	2849		7612
	-----		-----
	7799	7799	11262
<b><u>Current liabilities</u></b>			
Creditors and accruals	1915		3221
Grants received in advance	2500		0
	-----		-----
	4415	4415	3221
		-----	-----
<b>Net current assets</b>		3384	8041
		-----	-----
		4006	8974
<b><u>Capital and reserves</u></b>			
Profit and loss account		4006	8974
		-----	-----
		<b>4006</b>	<b>8974</b>
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## *APPENDIX 1      Board Members 1993/94*

### *ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES:*

1.    **John MacDonald, Chairman**, Lonach, Kilmore, Sleat, Isle of Skye  
(Feis an Earraich)  
Telephone 0478 612386
2.    **Rita Hunter, Secretary**, Feis Rois, High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire  
(Feis Rois)  
Telephone 0349 868675
3.    **Nan Smith**, 14 Jameson Drive, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis  
(Feis Eilean an Fhraoich)  
Telephone 0851 703103
4.    **Maire MacPhail**, Upper Cairinish, North Uist  
(Feis Tir an Eorna)  
Telephone 0876 580260
5.    **Margaret MacTaggart**, Kintra Farm, Isle of Islay, Argyll  
(Feis Ile)  
Telephone 0496 2051
6.    **Charlie Menzies**, Invercassley Cottage, Rosehall, Lairg, Sutherland  
(Feis Chataibh)  
Telephone 054 984 288
7.    **Margaret Ann Beggs**, 1 Cnoc a Chonais, Skallary, Isle of Barra  
(Feis Bharraigh)  
Telephone 0871 810667

### *C0-OPTED MEMBERS:*

8.    **Beathag Morrison**, 4 George Street, Oban, Argyll  
(Gaelic Development Officer; CnaG, A&IE, ACG, A&BDC)  
Telephone 0631 65996
9.    **Jim Morrison**, HRC, 3 High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire  
(HRC, Principal Community Education Officer)  
Telephone 0349 64962
10.   **Malcolm MacLean**, 89/93 Cromwell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis  
(Director, National Gaelic Arts Project)  
Telephone 0851 704493

### *DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:*

11.   **Arthur Cormack**, Quay Brae, Portree, Isle of Skye  
Telephone 0478 612990

## **APPENDIX 2:      *Feis Contact names and addresses***

<b>Feis an Earraich</b> John MacDonald Elgin Hostel Portree Isle of Skye IV51 9HA  0478 612386	<b>Feis Eilean an Fhraoich</b> Marisa MacDonald NGAP 89/93 Cromwell Street Stornoway Isle of Lewis  0851 704493	<b>Feis Asainte</b> Agnes Dickson Achins Inbhir Chirlaig Lochinver Sutherland  0571 4262
<b>Feis Rois</b> Rita Hunter Ross House High Street Dingwall 0349 868675	<b>Feis Tir an Eorna</b> Maire MacPhail Upper Carinish North Uist Western Isles 0876 580260	<b>Feis Lochabar Bheo</b> Kate Martin Community Education Lochaber High School Fort William 0397 705003
<b>Feis Ile</b> Maureen Baker 55 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay  0496 302413	<b>Feis Oigridh Ile</b> Jean Knowles 55 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay  0496 302413	<b>Feis Ealan na Hearadh</b> Rhoda MacLeod 3 Scaristavore Isle of Harris Western Isles  0859 550265
<b>Feis Bharraigh</b> Margaret Ann Beggs CSS Office Castlebay Isle of Barra Western Isles  0871 810667	<b>Feis Thiriodh</b> Flora MacPhail The Harbour Cornaigmore Isle of Tiree Argyll  0879 2496	<b>Feis Latharna</b> Coll MacDougall Central Cottage Stafford Street Oban PA34 5NJ  0631 65996
<b>Feis Chataibh</b> Anne Marshall Firthview Golspie Sutherland KW10 6TA  0408 633708	<b>Feis Tir a Mhurain</b> Catriona Scott 4 Ionad Cheallaidh Ormicate Howmore South Uist  0878 710341	<b>Feis Mhealainis</b> Angela MacKay 114 Port Vasgo Talmine Lairg Sutherland  0847 56271
<b>Feis Srath Fharragaig</b> Alex Sutherland Errogie By Inverness Inverness-shire  0456 486641	<b>Feis Spe</b> Marie Louise Napier Cherry Grove Old Spey Bridge Grantown on Spey  0479 872832	<b>Feis Dhailriata</b> Peter MacIntyre The Shieling Furness Inveraray  0499 5676
<b>Feis na Hearadh</b> Mairi MacLeod 15 Seilebosd Isle of Harris Western Isles  0859 550243	<b>Feis nan Garbh Chriochan</b> Karen MacIsaac Smirsary Glenuig Inverness-shire  06877 261	<b>Feis Clarsaich</b> Billie Wealleans 27 Ferry Brae North Kessock Inverness  0463 73647
<b>Feis na h-Oige</b> David MacLennan 6 Provost Smith Crescent Inverness IV2 3YF  0463 223860	<b>Feis Mhuile</b> Ann Baxter 4 Fountainhead Bunessan Isle of Mull  06817 431	<b>Feis nan Gleann</b> Chris Connolly Community Education Charleston Academy Inverness  0463 220128
<b>Feis an Eilein</b> Duncan MacInnes Ostaig House Sleat Isle of Skye  047 14 207	<b>Feis Arainn</b> Maggie Frame 29 Alma Park Brodick Isle of Arran KA27 8ET  0770 600247	<b>Feis a Bhaile</b> Morag MacCallum Cameron Centre Planefield Road Inverness  0463 710203