



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

The National Association of Gaelic Arts Youth Tuition Festivals

Aithisg Bhliadhnail 1998

- Annual Report 1998 -

**Fèisean nan Gàidheal
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Fèisean nan Gàidheal

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AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Fèisean nan Gàidheal ends 1997/98 having had another successful period in meeting its aims and objectives, and in building up awareness of, and support for, the Fèis Movement.

Since embarking on a new Development Plan for the years 1997 -2001, the organisation has become a 3 year revenue client of the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), which greatly eases the pressures of financing our work.

I would like to express our appreciation to the SAC for its continuing support, and in doing so, pay particular tribute to John Murphy, the Combined Arts Director of the SAC, who has supported the Fèisean since the inception of Fèis Bharraigh in 1981. His personal enthusiasm and vision made our many cases for funding over the years relatively painless, and his support for the establishment of Fèisean nan Gàidheal as an umbrella organisation, and his part in shaping the organisation, have been very welcome. John retires in June this year, and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Thanks must also go to Matthew Rooke, who left his post as Music Director at the SAC this year. We wish him well in his new life as a freelance consultant and musician.

We will continue to work with the new Directors of Combined Arts and Music at the SAC, and hope that the support for our work will continue.

We welcomed two new members of staff to Fèisean nan Gàidheal this year. David Boag took on the post of Fèis Alba Organiser from December, and Anne Willoughby began work as Administrator in January. David was initially employed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with the specific task of progressing the organisation of the first Fèis Alba. Fèis Alba has now been established as a separate company, with its own Board of Directors.

Our Development Officer, Arthur Cormack, indicated in February that he wished to resign from his post. However, he has agreed to stay on as a part-time Director of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and the post of Development Officer is currently being filled.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal moved to new, more spacious offices in January; a move which was necessary to enable our expanding staff to operate successfully.

The cancellation of the Celtic Connections concert in January this year was a huge disappointment for all involved in the Fèis Movement. I believe, however, that it was better to have pulled out of an event which had the potential to cause damage to the Fèisean, and while I fully appreciate everyone's sense of annoyance and betrayal, the decision was the right one. I am happy to say that we are looking forward to a *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert in Eden Court Theatre on Saturday 20 June, and I hope that this event will be as successful as the one held in 1996.

I would like to thank the Board members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal who have served over the past year. At last year's AGM, we said goodbye to Tommy MacDonald (Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain) and Karen MacIsaac (Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan), who had reached the end of their 3 year term, and I would like to thank them for their contribution. The Fèis organisers are worthy of thanks for their continued commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the Fèis Movement, and their support of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Please remember that Fèisean nan Gàidheal is here to support the Fèisean. If at any time we can help you, please contact us. Our new telephone number is 01478 613355, and fax 01478 613399. We also have e-mail on feisean@dircon.co.uk (please note there is no accent on the 'e' in Fèisean for the purposes of e-mail).

John MacDonald
Chairman
Fèisean nan Gàidheal
May 1998

STAFFING

As indicated in the Chairman's report, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been able to employ a part-time Administrator, due mainly to an increase in funding from HIE/Comunn na Gàidhlig and The Highland Council. Anne Willoughby took up the post in January 1998.

David Boag, Fèis Alba Organiser, was employed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal up until Fèis Alba was formed as a separate company.

A new Development Officer will be employed very soon, and Arthur Cormack will continue on a part-time basis, as Director of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

1997-98 STATISTICS (1997 figures in brackets)

Over the year, 2695 (1980 in '97) young people took part in 26 (22) Fèisean, with 429 (362) tutors employed to teach them. The rate of pay for tutors ranged from £150 - £250 pro rata, for a 5 day Fèis.

Costs to participants were within the following ranges:-

Daily Fèisean	£1 - £15 per day
Weekly Fèisean	£15 - £50 per week
Weekly Fèisean (Residential)	£65 - £100 per week

The total cost of running all 26 Fèisean was £226,490 (£189,340) or an average of £8711.15 per Fèis (£8,606.36). Communities themselves raised £110,522 (£109,000) or 48.8% (57.6%) of the total cost. These figures do not include Fèis Rois Inbhich, which does not receive assistance from Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

FINANCE

Financial support remained stable in 1997/98, with an increase in grant from the Scottish Arts Council to £60,000. We have ended the year with a small deficit, mainly due to our financing Fèis Alba in the short term, and our move to new premises, and the one-off costs associated therewith.

We again applied to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department for a Headquarters Grant, but have again been unsuccessful in securing a grant for this financial year.

The Highland Council increased our grant from £5,000 to £10,000, as did HIE/Comunn na Gàidhlig, and we were successful in securing project funds from Comhairle nan Eilean, Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig and the Scottish Arts Council Music Committee. Grampian Television continued its sponsorship of Fèisean nan Gàidheal with a £2,500 donation.

Our *Grants Scheme for Fèisean* and *Grants Scheme for Post-Fèis Activity* enabled us to commit £44,168 - almost 34% of our turnover - to the Fèisean, in grant-aid.

Although there is a small trading deficit this year, our financial situation remains secure, and because of the large number of musical instruments we own, our assets are healthy. The Financial Statement for 1997/98, prepared by Alex Graham C.A., forms part of this report.

General and project funding for Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Fèisean has come from a wide variety of sources, and we are very grateful for the support of the following bodies:

**Scottish Arts Council Highlands & Islands Enterprise The Highland Council Comhairle nan Eilean
Grampian Television Plc Comunn na Gàidhlig Western Isles and Skye & Lochalsh LEADER II
An Comunn Gàidhealach Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met 4 times since May 1997, to discuss policy issues as a representative body of the Fèisean.

Minutes of all meetings, along with the Development Officer's Progress Reports are available to all members.

The current members of the Board of Directors are:

John MacDonald (4/4), Chairperson (The Highland Council)
Rita Hunter (3/4), Company Secretary (Fèis Rois)
Cathryn Bingham, Treasurer (3/4) (Fèis Spè)
Nanac Skivington (2/3) (Fèis Tìr an Eòrna)
Josie Brown (0/4) (Fèis Thiriodh)
Margaret Ann Beggs (3/4) (Fèis Bharraigh)
Coll MacDougall (4/4) (Fèis Latharna)
Jessie Newton (3/3) (Fèis Dun Eideann)
Nan MacLeod (4/4) (Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich)
Kirsteen Graham (3/4) (Fèis an Earraich)
Jim Morrison (4/4), Co-opted (Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council)
Beathag Morrison (3/4), Co-opted (Comunn na Gàidhlig)
Malcolm MacLean (2/4), Co-opted (National Gaelic Arts Project)
Murdo MacIver, Attending (0/4) (North Lanarkshire Council)
Cllr Donnie Murray, Attending (4/4) (Comhairle nan Eilean)
Callum MacDonald, Attending (4/4) (An Comunn Gàidhealach)
John Murphy, Attending, (2/4) (Scottish Arts Council)
Arthur Cormack, Attending, (4/4) (Fèisean nan Gàidheal)

Meetings held 15 May 1997, 22 September 1997, 1 December 1997 and 23 February 1998. The numbers in brackets indicate the attendance of Directors at meetings out of a possible 3 or 4 depending on when they were elected.

CORE ACTIVITIES

1 Grants Scheme for Fèisean

Fèisean nan Gàidheal granted £26,556 (£22,961) to 26 (22) Fèisean in 1997/98 - an average of £1,021.38 (£1,043.68) per Fèis, utilising part of our allocation from the Scottish Arts Council Combined Arts Department. Funding was awarded to the Fèisean following receipt of an application, and an agreed formula was then applied, whereby all Fèisean received 12.5% of their eligible costs.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has agreed to increase the percentage of funding it grants to Fèisean for core Fèis activities, from 12.5% to 15% for 1998/99.

2 Follow-on tuition: Grants Scheme for Post-Fèis Activities

The most extensive programme of community tuition workshops to date, undertaken with assistance from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, took place over the past year. This was due to the much appreciated support of the Scottish Arts Council Music Committee, Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig, The Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean. Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to fund 1,701 (1,313) workshop sessions involving 17 (17) Fèisean, 145 (80) tutors and 3568 (2500) participants. Grants totalling £17,612 (£19,172) were committed. This is an extremely important aspect of the work of the Fèisean, and we are hopeful of securing the necessary funding to enable us to continue running the programme.

3 Ceòl nam Fèis book

Our first volume of Ceòl nam Fèis, has sold approximately 1800 copies of its 3000 print run. A second volume has been commissioned by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and Valerie Bryan will again compile and arrange the material for publication. The bulk of the costs will come out of our 1998/99 budget.

4 Annual General Meeting and Conference

A successful AGM and Conference was held at the Royal Hotel, Portree in May 1997. Funding for the event was secured from Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise and Comunn na Gàidhlig.

5 Training programme

Our training programme in 1997/98 was not as full as in previous years, because of lack of resources to organise the workshops.

A full audit of training needs will be carried out soon, in response to a series of regional Fèis meetings, and once any gaps have been identified, training will be devised and offered.

6 Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan 1997-2001

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's new Development Plan was endorsed at last year's Annual Conference, and is now available in Gaelic and English formats. Morag Stewart was commissioned to translate the plan into Gaelic.

7 The Social Impact of the Fèisean

A one day seminar was organised to launch the Comedia report *Use or Ornament*, which includes the study entitled *The Social Impact of the Fèisean*, at the House of an Art Lover in Glasgow, on 26 November 1997. Rita Hunter, Fèis Rois Administrator, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Secretary, participated as a speaker, and Coll MacDougall, Beathag Morrison and Arthur Cormack attended on Fèisean nan Gàidheal's behalf.

The Scottish Arts Council is very keen to do a follow-up launch of the Comedia report in the Highlands, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal will work with them on this.

8 Links with formal education

8.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal has maintained links with the RSAMD, and its BA Scottish Music Course.

Some of the students were on placement at Fèis Rois at Easter 1998, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Officer has been a consistent External Examiner in Gaelic Song at the RSAMD.

The RSAMD also enlisted our help to try and encourage more Gaelic singers to apply for a place on the course, as there seems to be a general lack of singers in both Gaelic and Scots applying.

8.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is to explore possible links with formal education at its 1998 Conference, with a view to working more closely with local authorities in delivering education in the Gaelic arts.

8.3 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Officer took part in a two day seminar run by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, on how they should structure a performing arts course, with a high degree of traditional music, as part of the new UHI proposals.

9 Exploring Sponsorship opportunities

Fèisean nan Gàidheal will be completing a sponsorship plan by the end of March 1999, with a view to attracting private funding to the Fèis Movement.

As a first step, at the 1998 Conference, the subject will be explored, and we will be examining what the Fèisean, on a collective basis, could offer potential sponsors.

It is envisaged that a pack will be put together for potential sponsors outlining the benefits to them of being associated with the Fèisean.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

1 Directory of Fèis Tutors

Our latest Directory of Fèis Tutors was published in July 1997.

Due to new childcare legislation, all Fèisean have been sent new forms for the Directory of Tutors, to ensure that all new tutors agree to a Police check before their details appear in the Directory. Before a new Directory is published, all existing tutors will be asked to update their details and agree to the check also. Those who do not respond, or do not wish to have a Police check run, will, from now on, be excluded from the Directory.

2 Faileas

Two more issues of Faileas were circulated in 1997/98, to over 700 people. This remains an effective way of disseminating information, and now that we have an Administrator in post, it should be easier to produce the newsletter on a more regular basis.

3 Highland Council

3.1 The Council maintained its financial support of the Fèisean in 1997/98. The council's Gaelic Select Committee has now agreed in principle, that all funding currently granted by The Highland Council to Fèisean, should be channelled through Fèisean nan Gàidheal from 1998, and be subject to a service agreement.

3.2 Morag Ann MacLeod, formerly of Fionan, has been appointed as Gaelic Development Officer for the Council, and took up post in April 1997.

3.3 Links were renewed with Nova Scotia, following a visit by Cllr Bryan Beattie and Cllr David Green. The Highland Council hosted a seminar in Inverness on 7 November, to gauge interest in strengthening these links, which was attended by a large number of people, the bulk of the seminar being about cultural links.

3.4 The Highland Council set up an informal Traditional Music Advisory Group, and Rita Hunter and I have attended several meetings.

These have been productive, and all aspects of traditional music in the Highland Council area have been discussed, with presentations from Dave Francis about the SAC Traditional Music Project, Robert Livingston and Ian Hamilton about MIDAS, Ian Sinclair who is involved in the traditional music course at Thurso College, and Rob Gibson who is involved in trying to get a traditional music college established in Ross & Cromarty as part of the UHI.

3.4 A proposal has been put forward by Adrian Clark, the Arts Officer with The Highland Council in Inverness, for a step dancing project, in which he hopes Fèisean nan Gàidheal can become involved.

4 Comhairle nan Eilean

4.1 The Council appointed Ryno Morrison, formerly of NGAP, as Arts Officer, based in Uist, serving the Western Isles Council.

4.2 We were advised by our Western Isles members, that the Council had abandoned its internal invoicing arrangement, where Community Education paid for the use of school premises for the Fèisean. However, I am

glad to say that this was not the case, and that the Fèisean continue to get free use of schools for Fèis activities.

4.3 The Council maintained its regular grants for Fèisean in 1997/98, and is currently looking at increasing the funding available, since the Fèisean will now come under a different budget within the Council.

4.4 Fèis Alba was discussed at a meeting of Comhairle nan Eilean's Arts & Leisure Committee, and created somewhat of a stir in the press.

Cllr Roddy Murray accused us of stealing a Western Isles idea, and taking it away from the 'heartland of Gaelic'. It appears that there was some confusion, and that some Councillors believed we were asking the Council for money for Fèis Alba, even although it was not being held in their area. We will of course only approach Comhairle nan Eilean for funding when Fèis Alba is to take place in the Western Isles.

5 Argyll & Bute Council

5.1 An Arts Officer has been appointed by Argyll & Bute Council, which should help our communications with the council. Liz Wright, formerly worked at the MacRobert Arts Centre in Stirling, and she also sits on the New Directions Lottery Committee. She took up her new post in January, and is based in Dunoon.

5.2 The Council maintained its support for the Fèisean throughout 1997/98, and indeed, some of the Fèisean were in receipt of an unexpected windfall when the Council decided to spend some specific Scottish Office funding on the Fèisean.

6 SAC New Directions National Lottery Funding

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has still not been able to take advantage of this new scheme, despite the fact that a potential project was discussed at last year's Conference.

This is potentially a three year, £350,000 project, £245,000 of which would be requested from New Directions. It will need a great deal of time spent on it to work up the application, and cooperation from the Fèisean will be vital.

7 Musical Instrument Bank

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Instrument Bank, established with funding from the Foundation for Sport & the Arts, MacRobert Trusts and the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Committee, is being well used.

The Instrument Bank accounts for over £350.00 per month in hire revenue; an annual income of over £4,000.

We have now been able to claim the balance of our lottery grant from the Scottish Arts Council.

8 Insurance

Our block Norwich Union insurance policy which covers us and the Fèisean for all major liabilities, has been renewed. This continues to be a valuable saving to the Fèisean in both monetary and time-saving terms.

9 Regional Fèis Meetings

Three regional meetings of Fèisean were set up, the idea being to meet with as many Fèis organisers as possible in their own locality.

Many issues were covered in these meetings, and a full composite report will be available after the 1998 Conference.

ADVOCACY

1 HI-ARTS MIDAS Project

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development officer is a member of the MIDAS group.

During the year, Maeve Ryan was appointed as a temporary, Music Officer, and submitted a successful application for 3-year funding from the SAC Lottery New Directions Committee, to carry out a programme of developments in the music industry in the Highlands & Islands.

MIDAS organised a group of people involved with traditional music, including Malcolm MacLean (PNE), Caroline Hewat (Balnain House) and Jim Love (Inverness Courier) to attend WOMEX; a world music trade fair, held this year in Marseilles. The idea was that they would promote Highland music to interested parties in other countries.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Officer took part in a seminar hosted by MIDAS for LEC representatives to talk about music in the community, how the Fèis model worked, and to open a discussion on whether it can be replicated in other types of music.

The MIDAS Steering Group will probably now meet less frequently, perhaps only 2-3 times a year, since the appointment of a full-time Officer, Ian Hamilton, in April this year.

2 Comunn na Gàidhlig's Official Status for Gaelic

Comunn na Gàidhlig has been working consistently for the past two years in achieving official recognition for the Gaelic language - with some headway having been made, particularly since the change of Government.

CnaG's Annual Còmhdhail, held on 20 June 1997, focussed, once again, on working towards gaining official status and Brian Wilson, Scottish Officer Minister with responsibility for Gaelic, paid a visit to the Annual Dinner the night before. He stated that the new Government was committed to supporting Gaelic, and would focus its support initially on Gaelic-medium education.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal supports CnaG in its efforts, and will offer any assistance it can. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Chairman, John MacDonald, is a member of the CnaG Board of Directors.

3 SAC Traditional Music Working Group

Before leaving the Scottish Arts Council, Matthew Rooke, the Director of Music, instigated a wide reaching consultation on traditional music support in Scotland.

The consultation was not without its difficulties, but eventually Dave Francis, Director of the Edinburgh Folk Festival, was appointed as the Traditional Music Coordinator, working outwith SAC, but with a specially-appointed Working Party, chaired by Rita Hunter. Arthur Cormack is a member, along with Jo Miller (RSAMD), Norman Chalmers (Multi-instrumentalist), Aileen Carr (Scots Singer), Freeland Barbour (Accordionist), Roddy MacLeod (Piper) Ken Robertson (United Distillers) and Shonagh Irvine, the SAC officer with responsibility for traditional music.

Dave Francis organised a seminar looking at traditional music in the media, which took place during Celtic Connections in January. He is currently involved in researching the needs and aspirations of the traditional music community in Scotland, with a view to having an interim report ready by the start of 1999. This will then be open to discussion, and any agreed plan of action will form the basis for a longer-term project.

4 SAC New Directions National Lottery Funding

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Officer serves on the New Directions Committee, and has attended 7 meetings since May 1997.

5 Connexions Conference

Jim Morrison represented Fèisean nan Gàidheal at the Scottish Tourist Board's Connexions Conference on 9 and 10 October 1997. Rita Hunter was also present, taking part in one of the Workshop Panels, so the Fèisean were well represented.

6 Scottish Community Education Council review

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was invited to make representations to the Scottish Office, on how we would like to see Community Education develop over the coming 5 years. Jim Morrison, a Director of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and a former Principal Community Education Officer, offered to respond on our behalf.

7 HI-ARTS Board of Directors

Arthur Cormack is a member of the HI-Arts Board, and has attended several meetings throughout 1997/98.

One of the major achievements of HI-Arts this year has been the building of a new mobile cinema which will tour the Highlands & Islands, and will be run by a HI-Arts subsidiary, HI-Screen

8 National Mod

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is represented on the National Mod Committee by Board member Coll MacDougall. Callum MacDonald, the National Mod Manager, in turn represents An Comunn Gàidhealach on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board.

Arthur Cormack is a member of the National Mod Music Committee, and attended four meetings in 1997/98.

9 Community Education Review Group

9.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal was invited, along with other Gaelic bodies, to make a presentation to the CERG at Lionacleit School on 27 August 1997. Unfortunately, nobody was unable to attend, but a collection of relevant literature was submitted, so that the members of the group could find out more about Fèisean nan Gàidheal's work.

9.2 The CERG held a seminar in the Grosvenor Hotel in Edinburgh, which was addressed by Brian Wilson MP, Minister with responsibility for Gaelic. In his address, he said that he welcomed the growth in the Fèis Movement, and pointed to the support the Fèisean had from community education over the years.

10 Emotional Well-being and the Arts

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer made a presentation to the above seminar, organised by HI-Arts and The Highland Health Board, on 2 September 1997. They specifically wanted to find out about how the Fèisean could contribute to a feeling of well-being, and the Comedia report was used to highlight this.

11 Ealain 21 Conference

I made a 10 minute presentation about the Fèisean to the Pròiseact nan Ealan Ealain 21 Conference at Eden Court Theatre. In the main, the Fèisean came out of the Conference quite well, and the event as a whole was useful.

12 HIE

A member of the HIE Board approached Fèisean nan Gàidheal to find out if there is any way in which HIE could better fund traditional arts organisations, so that a debate could be initiated within the HIE Board.

It has been suggested that Fèisean nan Gàidheal should be getting far greater support from HIE than it is at present, because of its pan-Highland remit, and the success of the Fèis Movement.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal will prepare a Discussion Paper, which I will send to various HIE officials as a first step to opening the debate.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1 Ceòl nam Fèis Concerts

We had been invited by the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (GRCH) to stage a Ceòl nam Fèis showcase concert on Saturday 24 January 1998 at 2.00 pm in the Main Auditorium.

A meeting was held with Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Officer, Louise Mitchell, Sheena Wellington and Colin Hynd of the GRCH, and they confirmed that they wished to proceed with the concert.

However, after many months of not being able to contact staff at the GRCH, and much time having been spent on the project by Arthur Cormack and Rita Hunter, it became clear that things were just not organised from the GRCH side, and it was decided that Fèisean nan Gàidheal had no option but to withdraw from the event, two weeks before it was due to have taken place.

This was a major disappointment, and John MacDonald, Rita Hunter and Arthur Cormack subsequently met with Louise Mitchell of the GRCH on 2 April in Inverness. She was able to offer no excuses, and did apologise profusely.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to recover costs incurred from the GRCH, except for Arthur Cormack and Rita Hunter's time. An offer of another concert at Celtic Connections was made to compensate for any loss.

1.2 Eden Court Theatre was contacted shortly after the Celtic Connections concert had been cancelled, and a rescheduled concert will take place on Saturday 20 June 1998.

The main purpose of this concert is so - as far as possible - all those who were disappointed at not getting to play at Celtic Connections will get the chance to participate in a quality concert at a prestigious venue.

2 Fèis Alba

The Fèis Alba working group continued to meet throughout 1997/98. Bryan Beattie's feasibility study was completed shortly after last year's Conference, and the first Fèis Alba was set for 26 June - 4 July 1998 in Portree, but moving round a small circuit of venues, to include Ross & Cromarty and the Western Isles initially.

David Boag was appointed as Fèis Alba Organiser in December, and made impressive headway in a short space of time.

A separate company, Fèis Alba Ltd, has now been formed. The Chair of Fèis Alba must be a member of the Board of Directors of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal agreed to pay for Fèis Alba until such time as funding was available to the new company. Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise agreed to a Graduate Placement for David, and contributed £300.00 per month towards his salary initially.

Funding has been confirmed by The Highland Council (£4,000) and the Scottish Arts Council New Directions Committee (£15,000). Funding also looks fairly secure from HIE, but has yet to be confirmed.

Calum MacDonald (Run Rig), Kate Martin (of the waltz and Community Education Lecturer) and Dr Angus MacDonald have joined Rita Hunter and John MacDonald as Directors of the company.

3 Cultural Youth Exchanges

There have been some positive moves in relation to Fèisean becoming involved in exchanges. Fèis Bharraigh is going to carry out an exchange with Tonga, and Fèis Dhun Eideann also has plans for an exchange visit with The Ukraine, a group from there having already been to Edinburgh.

Jim Morrison has been extremely helpful in setting up these exchanges, and in offering training to the organisers of the exchanges.

Some children from Barra attended the Commonwealth Heads of State Conference in Edinburgh, as part of the preparation for their exchange with Tonga.

Fèis Rois was involved in an exchange with Brideswell in County Roscommon, Ireland, which resulted in a trip to Ireland during the summer for Fèis Rois participants, and a visit by the Irish to Fèis Rois nan Deugairean in Gairloch.

FEISEAN

The Development Officer attended Fèis an Earraich, Fèis Lochabair, Fèis Latharna, Fèis Rois Oigridh, Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan, Fèis Rois nan Deugairean and Fèis a' Bhaile in 1997. At Easter 1998, he attended Fèis an Earraich and Fèis Latharna and in May, Fèis Rois Inbhich.

Five new Fèisean were be established in 1997 - Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn, Fèis Loch Laomainn, Fèis Ghlinn' Eilge, Fèis Chille Mhoraig, and Fèis Arainn and the first Fèis Ratharsaidh took place in February 1998.

No Fèis is singled out in this report, but the following are observations gleaned from the Development officer's Progress Reports.

Fèis Arainn took place in June at Arran High School, and was a resounding success, with over 200 participants.

Fèis Asainte was unfortunately cancelled because of lack of numbers.

Fèis a' Bhaile took place in Inverness during the October holiday.

Fèis Chille Mhoraig was held for the first time in Kilmorack, near Beaully. Over 80 participants attended the 4 day Fèis, and the organisers were very happy with the way it turned out.

Fèis Lochabair managed to employ a high proportion of locally-based tutors at their Easter 1997 Fèis, and this worked well for them.

Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn took place in Dumbarton in late August 1997. This is quite a new Fèis, and because it does not cater solely for young people, it did not qualify for a grant. They have however joined as Corporate members, as they want to develop a Fèis for young people, and they did borrow instruments from us.

Fèis an Earraich took place in Plockton in 1997, and was very successful. A senior Fèis was held alongside the main event, and this worked well, with participants from other Fèisean including Fèis Spè and Fèis Lochabair.

Various fund-raising events to help with the cost of follow-on classes were organised. Follow-on classes were held in Piping with Iain MacFadyen, and Fiddle with Didi Findlay.

A Sponsor-a-Tutor appeal was launched to local businesses, with some success, and also a Friends of Fèis an Earraich scheme.

Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich had a record number of participants in 1997, with 221 attending. There were some

newcomers from Weymouth and four young Nigerians, all of whom were keen to take part.

Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan had the company of a Grampian Television crew, who were filming for a programme called *Fèis* which was recently transmitted.

Fèis Latharna also took place at Easter 1997. This was the first time they had run a 5 day Fèis, and the format seemed to have worked well for them.

They ran 4 weekend workshops, every fortnight, before the main Fèis at Easter 1998. These seemed to have been very successful, with over 80 participants each weekend.

The Development Officer was privileged to be a guest at a very enjoyable dinner hosted by the Fèis in honour of Iain Crichton Smith's 70th birthday. A great night was had by all.

Fèis Loch Laomainn took place at the beginning of June 1997. I think the workshops were quite successful, but perhaps numbers were lower than had been first envisaged.

Fèis Mbuile due to be held during the February weekend 1998, had to be postponed. It is hoped it can be held at a later date.

Fèis na h-Oige The Gaelic-medium Fèis in Inverness, is currently trying to get a committee together to keep things going. Up until now, it has been run almost single-handedly by Dave MacLennan, but he feels that Comann nam Pàrant in Inverness should take a greater share of the burden.

For the second year running, not enough people turned up at the AGM of **Fèis Obar Dheathain**. An EGM had to be called to form a new committee.

The new **Fèis Ratharsaidh** went ahead from February 12 - 14 1998, with around 30 youngsters. Although small, it made an impact on the community.

Fèis Rois Fèis Rois Oigridh had very long queues waiting to get into the Ullapool Leisure Centre for their final concert, which was excellent - packed out - with some very favourable comments from members of the audience.

A summer Family Fèis was held in Ullapool over two weeks in August. This was aimed at visitors to the area, but attracted local participants also, and was very successful.

Fèis Rois nan Deugairean was held Gairloch in October. A group from Roscommon attended on a return visit, following the summer trip by Fèis Rois participants.

Fèis Rois Inbhich was held in Gairloch over the May 1998 holiday weekend. Around 100 adults took part, and that's without advertising! An absolutely great weekend was had by all, and the Fèis goes from strength to strength.

Fèis Spè took place in October, clashing with the Mod, but was nonetheless very successful.

Fèis Tìr a' Mburain held a mini-Fèis at Easter 1998, for the first time opened it out to the whole community, not just Gaelic speakers. They are however, going to keep the summer Fèis to being strictly Gaelic-medium. They hope to move into premises at the newly complete Kildonan Museum currently under construction.

The Development Officer cannot visit every Fèis as it is taking place, but will maintain regular contact with all the Fèisean, and will try to visit each committee at least once a year, if requested to do so, and if practical. Fèisean should however feel free to contact the Development Officer at any time if there is a way in which Fèisean nan Gàidheal could assist. The Development Officer, or any Board member, will be happy to discuss any information pertaining to the organisation, and to pass on suggestions for discussion at Board meetings.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Trading Account for the year to 31 March 1998

	1998	1997
	£	£
Income		
Grant income	113142	94355
Membership fees	1830	1350
Bank interest	2212	1013
Other income	4045	1136
Book sales	3762	3173
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	124991	101027
Foundation for Sport and the Arts	0	8750
Scottish Arts Council National Lottery	6750	2616
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	131741	112393
Expenditure		
Development Officer fees	21406	19841
Development Officer expenses:	7197	10148
Grant expenditure	47935	40396
Administration charges	2110	464
Accommodation, travel & subsistence	10065	8751
Stationery & printing	3679	1152
Bank charges	32	32
Other expenses	9198	3771
Consultancy fees	5875	0
Accountancy	550	425
Depreciation	15195	6923
Music book fees (net of stock)	5067	3240
Workshops/seminars	0	2322
Tutors fees and expenses	668	1701
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	128975	99166
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	2766	13227

Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 1998

		1998	1997
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Equipment		44414	21011
Current assets			
Stock of books	5461		8354
Debtors	14004		17283
Cash in hand and at bank	3983		15372
	<u>23447</u>		<u>41009</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	(15698)		(5873)
Net current assets	7749	7749	35136
Deferred Income			
		<u>(26882)</u>	<u>(33632)</u>
		<u>25281</u>	<u>22515</u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		<u>25281</u>	<u>22515</u>

Appendix 1

Board Members 1997/98

- 1 **John MacDonald, *Chairman***, Lònach, Kilmore, Sleat, Isle of Skye, IV44 8RG
(Co-opted) Telephone 01471 844351
- 2 **Rita Hunter, *Secretary***, The Stables, Allangrange, Munlochy, Ross-shire, IV8 8NZ
(Fèis Rois) Telephone 01349 862600
- 3 **Cathryn Bingham, *Treasurer***, Doire Bheag, Newtonmore Road, Kingussie, PH21 1HD
(Fèis Spè) Telephone 01540 661141
- 4 **Nanac Skivington**, 3 Grenitote, Sollas, North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5BP
(Fèis Tìr an Eòrna) Telephone 01876 560247
- 5 **Josie Brown**, 4 Cornaigbeg, Scarinish, Isle of Tìree, Argyll, PA77 6UZ
(Fèis Thiriodh) Telephone 01496 302051
- 6 **Coll MacDougall**, Central Cottage, Stafford Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NJ
(Fèis Latharna) Telephone 01631 566990
- 7 **Margaret Ann Beggs**, 1 Cnoc a' Chonais, Skallary, Isle of Barra, HS9 5UP
(Fèis Bharraigh) Telephone 01871 810562
- 8 **Jessie Newton**, 6 St Margaret's Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1AZ
(Fèis Dhun Eideann) Telephone 0131 447 1252
- 9 **Nan MacLeod**, Gleannan, Garrabost, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles, HS2 0PL
(Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich) Telephone 01851 870264
- 10 **Kirsteen Graham**, 14 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8DA
(Fèis an Earraich) Telephone 01471 822671
- 11 **Beathag Morrison**, 29 Broomhill Terrace, Glasgow, G11 7AH
(Co-opted; Project Executive; Comunn na Gàidhlig) Telephone 0141 576 0456
- 12 **Jim Morrison**, 30 Wyvis Crescent, Conon Bridge, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV7 8BZ
(Co-opted; Development Officer, CYEC) Telephone 01349 861110
- 13 **Malcolm MacLean**, 10 Shell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2EA
(Co-opted; Director, National Gaelic Arts Project) Telephone 01851 704493
- 14 **Clr Donnie Murray**, Comhairle nan Eilean, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
(In attendance; Comhairle nan Eilean Representative) Telephone 01851 703773
- 15 **Murdo MacIver**, North Lanarkshire Council, Kildonan Street, Coatbridge, ML5 3BT
(In attendance; North Lanarkshire Council) Telephone 01236 812269
- 16 **Callum MacDonald**, An Comunn Gàidhealach, 109 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1EY
(In attendance; An Comunn Gàidhealach National Mòd Manager) Telephone 01463 231126
- 17 **John Murphy**, Scottish Arts Council, 12 Manor Place, Edinburgh, EH3 7DD
(In attendance; Scottish Arts Council) Telephone 0131 226 6051
- 18 **Arthur Cormack**, Quay Brae, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9DB
(In attendance; Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer) Telephone 01478 612990



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