

# **Fèisean nan Gàidheal**

## **Aithisg Bhliadhnail 2000**

~ Annual Report 2000 ~

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*Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a company limited by guarantee, registration number SC 130071,  
and gratefully acknowledges the support of its core-funders  
Scottish Arts Council, The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise through HI-Arts*

## INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The development of Fèisean nan Gàidheal in 1999/2000 was very significant indeed, and we end another year which has seen the organisation expand yet again, to meet the growing demands of supporting the Fèis movement.

It was particularly pleasing to be able to employ four regionally-based Fèis Support Workers. Ingrid Henderson, Rachel Walker, Jennifer Marshall and Lena MacLellan will, between them, cover all areas where there are currently Fèisean taking place, with a remit to assist development, along with the local committees, of Fèis activities throughout Scotland.

The creation of these posts was made possible after a protracted period in putting the funding package together, which in the end has proved to be very complex, but the only way to secure the posts for an initial three years. This brings the total staff at Fèisean nan Gàidheal to seven, and consequently there are many more responsibilities for the Board members.

I would like to thank the Board members who have served with dedication over the past year, and presided over the changes in the organisation. At last year's AGM, we said goodbye to Cathryn Bingham (Fèis Spè) who had reached the end of her 3 year term, and Mike McLintock (Fèis Obar Dheathain), who decided to leave the Board on taking up new employment. I would like to thank them both for their contribution during their period as Board members.

Highlights of the year included another very successful *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness. For the first time, the concert was a total sell-out, and was recorded by MnE Television, with funding from Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig, for transmission at a later date.

The organisation adopted a Child Protection Policy, and is now going through the process of arranging training for Fèis organisers in its implementation. This is crucially important to protecting the young people taking part in the Fèisean, as well as the Fèis organisers and tutors, and we are grateful to Jim Morrison, who has guided us through the process.

Alasdair Morrison MSP, the Minister with responsibility for Gaelic, convened a Gaelic Task Force, to look at the future direction of Gaelic development organisations, and although not funded directly by the Scottish Executive, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was included in this process. We await the publication of the recommendations of the group, and hope that the Fèis movement will continue to be central to the future of Gaelic language and cultural development.

During the course of the Gaelic Education debate in the Scottish Parliament on 3 March, seven out of the nine MSPs who spoke, praised the Fèis movement, and called for greater support for it. Despite the cross-party support from MSPs, and various approaches to the Scottish Executive for relatively small amounts of funding, we are disappointed that no funding whatsoever has been forthcoming from the Executive.

The output from the Fèis movement, for the relatively small investment, is immense, and our situation is in direct contrast to that of our sister organisation in Ireland - Cómhaltas Ceóiltoiri na h-Eireann - with which we have established links since their National Treasurer, Padraig Ó Dufaigh, addressed our Annual Conference last year. The Irish Government directly grants £200,000 to Cómhaltas annually, and is expected to increase that sum this year. Given the links that the Scottish Executive seem very keen to promote and foster between Scotland and Ireland, it is hoped that they will take a leaf out of the Irish government's book, and ensure our work is recognised, and its future development secured with appropriate funding.

The Fèisean are widely recognised as one of the most successful community arts initiatives in Scotland, some would say Europe, and a movement on which the success of the work of other organisations is contingent.

For example, the Adult Learning Project in Edinburgh, the Doric Gordon Gaithering, the Easterhouse Arts Project, the Ceòlas Summer School and the Shetland Traditional Music Project are all based on the Fèis model. It is acknowledged that the improving standard of performance among young people at the Mod, at local and

national level, is directly attributable to the work of the Fèisean, a fact alluded to at the 1999 National Mod by the Chief Executives of Comunn na Gàidhlig and Lochaber Ltd.

7 out of the first 10 graduates from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama's BA Scottish Music course had Fèis involvement before enrolling, and the Fèisean continue to feed students into that course, and indeed offer them work placements. Graduates are regularly employed as Fèis tutors.

Fèisean often provide the only opportunity in a community for young people to take part in any cultural activity, and although the focus of the Fèisean is rightly on offering learning opportunities in Gaelic cultural skills for young people, the positive effects of the Fèisean reach much further into the community.

The Fèisean cut across many current strategic objectives. At their basic level, they provide quality, fun, informal cultural education for all young people, from all walks of life, contributing significantly to their personal and social development. They provide a wonderful opportunity for lifelong learning among participants and organisers. They encourage people to be active in their community, take situations into their own hands, and the skills they learn give them confidence to be involved in organising other things.

Above all, they provide energetic young musicians, singers, dancers and actors who undoubtedly add to the richness and diversity of communities throughout Scotland.

With the publication of a Cultural Strategy for Scotland, it is to be hoped that the Fèis movement is finally recognised for the positive work in which it is involved, and I pay tribute to all the volunteer organisers and helpers in the many communities throughout the country who work tirelessly to ensure its success. Fèisean nan Gàidheal does, however, recognise that the volume of work in engaging in Fèis development is such that we cannot rely wholly on volunteers, and additional resources are going to be required to ensure that the good work in which the movement has been involved up until now, can continue, and develop, into the future. We can only do this with proper recognition of, and funding for, the work of the Fèis movement.

We are very grateful for the funding which is granted to the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and I would like to thank Jim Tough, the Combined Arts Director of the Scottish Arts Council, for continuing to support the work of the organisation, and for the increase in funding awarded in 1999/2000. I would also add my thanks to our other core-funders; The Highland Council, and Highlands & Islands Enterprise who support us through HI-Arts.

Project funding comes from many sources, and all the organisations who have offered funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal in its developmental work are credited within the body of the report

We look forward to the next year with enthusiasm and optimism, ready to adapt to change and to meet the fresh challenges which may come our way in ensuring that the Fèis movement continues to be supported and developed.

Finally, please remember that Fèisean nan Gàidheal is, and wishes to remain, very much a membership-led organisation. The Fèisean should always get in touch if they are in need of support which Fèisean nan Gàidheal may be able to offer. Our primary aim is to support the Fèisean, and if at any time we can help, we will be happy to do so.

**John MacDonald**  
Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chairman  
September 2000

## 1 STAFFING

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has increased its staff to seven over the past year.

This is made up of the core staff, based in the Portree Office, comprising part-time Director, Arthur Cormack, full-time Development Officer, David Boag, and part-time administrator, Anne Willoughby.

Also in the Portree office is Fraser Shaw, who started working with Fèisean nan Gàidheal in September 1999. Although he is on full-time placement with Fèisean nan Gàidheal, he is employed by YouthLink Scotland. His post of Trainee Youth Worker is funded under the Route '98 scheme, and is designed to allow trainees to complete a degree course in community education, while gaining practical experience with a relevant organisation.

In addition to the core staff, four new Fèis support workers have been appointed. The posts have been divided according to distinct geographical areas as follows:

Lena MacLellan, based in the Western Isles, covering Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich, Fèis Eilean na Hearadh, Fèis Tìr an Eòrna, Fèis Tìr a'Mhurain and Fèis Bharraigh

Rachel Walker, based in Kirkhill, covering Fèis a' Bhaile, Fèis Chataibh, Fèis Chille Mhòraig, Fèis Dhun Eideann, Fèis Rois, Fèis Strath Fharragaig and the newly-established Fèis air an Oir.

Ingrid Henderson, based in Lochaber, covering Fèis an Earraich, Fèis Eige, Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan, Fèis Lochabair, Fèis Obar Dheathain, Fèis Ratharsaidh, Fèis Spè, and the newly-established Fèis Thròdairnis and Fèis Mhàrr.

Jennifer Marshall, based in Bridge of Orchy, covering Fèis Arainn, Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn an Iar, Fèis Ile, Fèis Innis-an-Uillt, Fèis Latharna, Fèis Mhuile and Fèis Oigridh Glaschu.

The main role of the four new workers is to provide support to the Fèisean within their own areas. The aim is that the workers will be the initial point of contact between Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with the Portree office acting as the main hub of the organisation.

Over the last year, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has achieved *Investors In People* status, in recognition of the good working practices and staff development programmes which exist within the organisation.

## 2 1999-2000 STATISTICS (1999 figures in brackets)

Over the year 1,941 (2,285) young people took part in 22 (26) main Fèisean, with 3,660 (3,107) participants taking part in follow-on classes. In all, 329 (392) tutors were employed to teach at main Fèisean, with a further 114 (109) engaged in follow-on classes. The rate of pay for tutors ranged from £150 - £300 pro rata, for a 5 day Fèis.

The total cost of running all 22 main Fèisean was £134,496 (£198,605) or an average of £6,113.45 (£7,638.65) per Fèis. Communities themselves raised £100,289.04 (£114,232) or 74.5% (57.5%) of the total cost of running the main Fèisean. This is made up of participants fees, cèilidhs, dances, raffles, sales, local grants and so on.

The remainder is made up in grants from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the various local authorities, local enterprise companies, national lottery schemes and donations from other grant making trusts and charities. These figures do not include Fèis Rois Inbhich, which, as a Fèis for adults, does not receive assistance from Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Significantly, the numbers of people taking part in year-round activity is now much greater than those taking part in the annual Fèisean. This is a welcome statistic, and demonstrates that the work of the Fèis movement is sustainable throughout the year.

Equally significant is the enormous voluntary effort in raising a high proportion of the required funding on a local basis.

### **3 FINANCE**

Financial support remained stable in 1999/2000, with an increase in our core grant from the Scottish Arts Council to £72,500. This came as we entered a new three year period of revenue funding from SAC.

The Highland Council granted us £26,500 for the year towards our core costs and our Grants Schemes. Highlands & Islands Enterprise decided that we should be funded through HI-Arts rather than Comunn na Gàidhlig, and this change resulted in our funding being increased to £15,000, from £10,000 previously.

Development and Project funds came from Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig (£1,250 towards *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert), the Scottish Arts Council Music Committee (£11,000 towards post-Fèis activity), Argyll & the Islands Enterprise (£1,500 towards our Annual Conference), Argyll & Bute Council (£500 towards our Annual Conference), Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (£500 towards our book *Gàidhlig do luchd-tòiseachaidh*), Comunn na Gàidhlig (£2,000 towards *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert and £1,500 towards *Ceòl nam Fèis book 2*), Urras Bròsnachaidh na Gàidhlig (£500 towards *Ceòl nam Fèis book 2*), Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis (£500 towards *Ceòl nam Fèis book 2*), Pròiseact nan Ealan (£500 towards *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert), The Highland Council (£950 towards the cost of providing t-shirts for participants in the *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert) HI-Arts (up to £900 towards the cost of Highlands & Islands residents taking part in the National Traditional Music Tutor Seminar) and Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise (£900 towards a Young Tutors Training Weekend at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig).

The Fèis Support Workers are being funded by Carnegie (UK) Trust (£10,000 per annum for 3 years), The Highland Council (£5,000 per annum for 3 years), The Baring Foundation (£5,000 per annum for 2 years), Highlands & Islands Enterprise (£10,000 for year 1 and subsequent years to be applied for separately), Argyll & Bute Council (£3,000 for year 1 and subsequent years to be applied for separately) and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (£3,000 for year 1 and subsequent years to be applied for separately).

We continued to lobby the Scottish Executive for financial assistance, but we have been unsuccessful in securing any funding from this source.

Our *Grants Scheme for Fèisean* and *Grants Scheme for Post-Fèis Activity* enabled us to commit £61,008 to the Fèisean, in grant-aid.

We have ended the year with a deficit, for the second year in a row, and this can be attributed to our increased core costs, the funding of Fèis Alba and a highly successful, if expensive, *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert. It is, in large part, also attributable to depreciation on musical instruments. Our financial situation remains relatively secure, however, with virtually guaranteed core funding, and our assets are quite healthy for a small organisation.

However, the rapid expansion of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and its activities, points clearly towards the need for increased core funding, and this must be secured to ensure the future development of the Fèisean.

The Financial Statement for 1999/2000, has been prepared by Mann, Judd & Gordon, who were appointed as auditors at last year's AGM, and forms part of the Annual Report.

### **4 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors met 4 times since May 1999, to discuss policy issues as a representative body of the Fèisean. The Board meetings have all been held in Inverness, except the 20 May 1999 meeting, which was held in Oban, prior to the organisation's AGM.

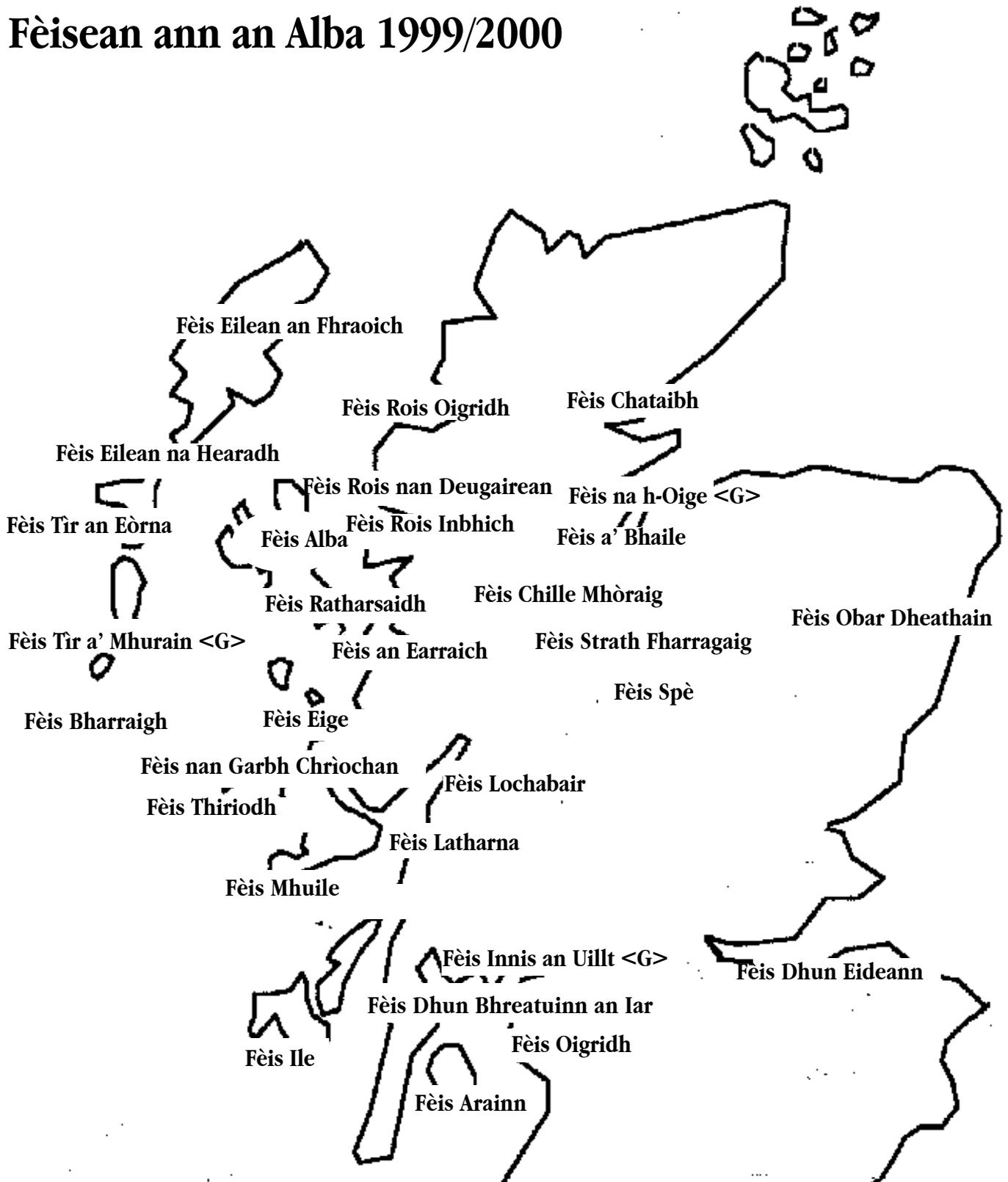
Adopted minutes of all Board meetings, along with Staff Progress Reports, are sent to all member-Fèisean on a regular basis.

The current members of the Board of Directors are:

- John MacDonald (5/5), *Chairperson*** (The Highland Council)  
**Rita Hunter (5/5), *Company Secretary*** (Fèis Rois)  
**Nanac Skivington (3/5), *Treasurer*** (Fèis Tìr an Eòrna)  
**Catriona MacIntyre (4/4)** (Fèis Lochabair)  
**Alasdair Beattie (2/4)** (Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn an Iar)  
**Margaret Ann Beggs (3/5)** (Fèis Bharraigh)  
**Coll MacDougall (4/5)** (Fèis Latharna)  
**Jessie Newton (5/5)** (Fèis Dhun Eideann)  
**Nan Smith (4/5)** (Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich)  
**Kirsteen Graham (4/5)** (Fèis an Earraich)  
**Jim Morrison (3/5), *Co-opted*** (Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council)  
**Kristine Kennedy (3/5), *Co-opted*** (Comunn na Gàidhlig)  
**Malcolm MacLean (1/5), *Co-opted*** (Pròiseact nan Ealan)  
**Cllr Katie MacKenzie (2/4), *Attending*** (Comhairle nan Eilean)  
**Caroline MacLeod (4/5), *Attending*** (HI-Arts)  
**Jim Tough (1/5), *Attending*** (Scottish Arts Council)

*Meetings held 20 May 1999 (Oban), 21 September 1999 (Inverness), 6 December 1999 (Inverness), 15 February 2000 (Inverness) and 23 May 2000 (Inverness). The numbers in brackets indicate the attendance of Directors at meetings out of a possible 4 or 5 depending on when they were elected/co-opted to the Board.*

# Fèisean ann an Alba 1999/2000



## Fèis Facts 2000

Total Members	32	<b>Main Fèis Grants Scheme (15% grant aided through FnG)</b>	
Highland Council Area	16	Total number of participants	1,941
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	5	Total number of tutors	329
Argyll & Bute	5	Total granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£28,399
Edinburgh City Area	1	Total expenditure by Fèisean	£134,496
Aberdeen City Area	2	<b>Follow-on Classes (30% grant aided through FnG)</b>	
Glasgow City Area	1	Total number of participants	3,660
Dunbartonshire Area	1	Total number of class sessions offered	1,547
North Ayrshire Council	1	Total granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£14,620
		Total expenditure by Fèisean	£62,169

## **5 CORE ACTIVITIES**

### **5.1 Grants Scheme for Fèisean**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal granted £28,399 (£29,164) to 22 (26) Fèisean in 1999/2000 - an average of £1,291 (£1,121) per Fèis, utilising part of our allocation from the Scottish Arts Council Combined Arts Department. The 12 Highland Council area Fèisean were granted an additional £18,089 - an average of £1,507 per Fèis, using part of our block grant from the Council. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's total grants to main Fèisean was therefore £46,487.

In both cases, funding was awarded to the Fèisean following receipt of an application, and an agreed formula was then applied, whereby all Fèisean received 15% (27.5% in the Highland Council area) of their eligible costs.

### **5.2 Follow-on tuition: Grants Scheme for Post-Fèis Activities**

A very extensive programme of community tuition workshops was undertaken with assistance from Fèisean nan Gàidheal. This was due to the much appreciated support of the Scottish Arts Council Music Committee and The Highland Council. Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to fund 1,547 (1,701) workshop sessions involving 14 (17) Fèisean, 114 (145) tutors and 3,660 (3,568) participants. Grants totalling £14,620 (£17,612) were committed.

This is an extremely important aspect of the work of the Fèisean, and with the help of the Fèis Support Workers, it should become easier for Fèisean to become involved. We are hopeful of securing increased funding to enable us to continue running the programme, and to develop it.

### **5.3 Annual General Meeting and Conference**

Last year's AGM and Conference was held in Oban on 20 and 21 May 1999.

Two new Directors were appointed to the Board; Alasdair Beattie of Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn an Iar, and Catriona MacIntyre of Fèis Lochabair. Rita Hunter (Fèis Rois) and Kirsteen Graham (Fèis an Earraich) were re-elected.

The AGM was addressed by Pdraig Ó Dufaigh, National Treasurer of Comhaltas Ceóltoiri Eireann, and there followed a dinner, with music from Fèis Latharna participants.

The conference the following day included a report on the Regional Fèis Meetings held in 1998, an update on plans to employ Regional Fèis Workers, a report on Fèis Alba 1999, a session on Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Childcare Policy, an outline of an educational project run by Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn an Iar, a presentation from Anne Campbell of SAC on New Opportunities lottery grants and Scottish Arts Council non-capital lottery funding schemes, and a presentation from Donald Angaidh MacLennan on the work of Iomairt Chaluum Chille. The morning concluded with a session on employment legislation, and a guide as to when tutors should be included in a formal payroll, rather than be treated as self-employed.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for financial assistance from Argyll & the Islands Enterprise, and Argyll & Bute Council for the 1999 Annual Conference.

### **5.4 Training programme**

5.4.1 Following the recommendations made in the Scottish Arts Council report *Traditional Music in Scotland*, a training network group was established to develop an industry wide approach to the tutoring of traditional arts, involving Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the TMSA, Lauder College and Fife Council.

The group succeeded in organising a seminar with many traditional arts tutors, participants and organisers, at Rothes Halls in Glenrothes on 1 April 2000. This examined the key areas that have to be addressed in the development of a training course for traditional music tutors.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for financial assistance from HI-Arts, who offered bursaries of up to £100 to people living in the Highlands and Islands who wished to take part in the Glenrothes Seminar.

5.4.2 A tutor training weekend took place in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on 19 and 20 February 2000. The course was led by experienced Fèis tutors, Valerie Bryan and Andy Thorburn, who took the 30 participants through a range of topics, including basic teaching skills, working with mixed ability groups and the importance of preparing suitable material for teaching. Additional input came from Marie MacKay, who ran a workshop looking at challenging behaviour and child protection issues.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for financial assistance from Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise towards the cost of the Tutors Training Weekend.

## **5.5 Ceòl nam Fèis book**

Our first *Ceòl nam Fèis* book has sold approximately 2,600 copies of its 3,000 print run.

A second volume, commissioned by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, is due for publication in September 2000.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for financial assistance from Comunn na Gàidhlig, Urras Brònachaidh na Gàidhlig, Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis and the Scottish Arts Council Music Committee for funding towards the commissioning and publication of *Ceòl nam Fèis 2*.

## **5.6 Links with formal education**

5.6.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal has maintained links with the RSAMD, and its BA Scottish Music Course, and the Director and Development Officer gave a presentation to the first year students while they were visiting Sabhal Mòr Ostaig at Easter.

5.6.2 As mentioned in the staffing section, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has hosted placements from Strathclyde University and Portree High School.

5.6.3 Plockton High School was awarded money from the Excellence Fund to develop a Traditional Music School on the campus, which will cater for 10 pupils from August 2000, rising to a maximum of 20 in subsequent years. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Director is a member of the Advisory Group.

# **6 MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

## **6.1 Directory of Fèis Tutors**

Our database of tutors was updated in early 2000, and in keeping with our adopted Childcare Policy, all tutors who will be included in the subsequent new Directory of Fèis Tutors, have agreed to go through a SCRO check if indeed this becomes necessary.

## **6.2 *Faileas* - Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter**

Three issues of *Faileas* were circulated in 1999/2000, and this remains an effective way of disseminating information. However, we need more input from the Fèisean to enable us to produce them more regularly. At present, we send more than 1,000 copies out each time it is published.

## **6.3 Working with Local Authorities**

6.3.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff maintain close links with Highland Council staff, and Councillors, and the organisation is represented on the Council's Traditional Music Advisory Group, by Rita Hunter and Arthur Cormack.

6.3.2 The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director has maintained contact with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's staff, which led to the granting of £3,000 towards the Fèis Support Workers. The Director also made a presentation at a Cultural Tourism seminar run by the Comhairle in Stornoway.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar also continued, and enhanced, its support of the Western Isles Fèisean in 1999/2000, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Director had discussions with the Council's Arts Officer, to see if there were ways in which the grants from Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Council could be streamlined and standardised.

6.3.3 Argyll & Bute Council maintained its support for the Fèisean throughout 1999/2000, and provided additional support to Fèisean nan Gàidheal for our Annual Conference, held in Oban in May 1999.

6.3.4 *Fèis Facts* leaflets were prepared for all the local authorities covering areas where there are Fèisean currently, and these were distributed to key staff members, and Councillors.

## **6.4 SAC National Lottery Funding**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has kept in touch with developments in lottery funding over the year, and passed on relevant information to its members.

The SAC is now one of the partners in the *Awards for All* small lottery grants scheme, and several Fèisean have secured grants of up to £5,000 from this budget.

## **6.5 Musical Instrument Bank**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Instrument Bank continues to operate successfully, and now accounts for over £400 per month in income.

The Fèisean continue to get free loans of any instruments required by them at the time of their Fèis, and at other times. Reasonable hire fees are charged to individuals who wish to use instruments throughout the year.

There is a demand for clàrsachs and small accordions which we are currently unable to meet, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal plans to raise additional funds to buy some more of these instruments.

## **6.6 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 monetary terms and in time.

## **6.7 Gaelic resource book for Fèisean**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal published a booklet entitled *Gàidhlig do Luchd-tòiseachaidh*, to provide an opportunity for every Fèis to use Gaelic in its activities, especially where there are fewer Gaelic speakers available than in some areas. The book is now widely used as a basic teaching resource.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for financial assistance from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean towards the cost of the booklet, which is available to all member-Fèisean free of charge.

## **6.9 European Funding**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been keeping abreast of the opportunities which may arise for the agreed transitional funding, which replaces Objective One funds in the Highlands & Islands.

# **7 ADVOCACY and COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

## **7.1 SAC Traditional Music Co-ordinator**

The final report, *Traditional Music in Scotland*, by Dave Francis was formally launched in Fife on Wednesday 11 May 2000, bringing to an end the work of the Steering group, which had been chaired by Rita Hunter of Fèis Rois, and of which Arthur Cormack was also a member.

The report's recommendations are being acted upon by SAC, over a three year period.

## **7.2 HI-ARTS Board of Directors**

Arthur Cormack is a director of HI-Arts Ltd, and attends Board meetings, and other HI-Arts events, on a regular basis.

## **7.3 Scottish Tourist Board Traditional Music Initiative**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Director is a member of this group, set up to advise the STB on traditional music development within tourism.

A seminar was organised at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness on 4 November 1999, which featured keynote speeches from Nod Knowles of SAC and Colin Hynd of Celtic Connections, and was followed by various presentations on the pilot projects funded jointly by STB and SAC. There followed a dinner and ceilidh.

The group met very seldom after that, as there were difficulties setting dates, but the work of the group continues in the absence of meetings.

## **7.4 MIDAS**

MIDAS held a very successful Record Company seminar in Inverness on 12 & 13 February, to give those running labels the opportunity to find out more about publishing and royalties collection, and to discuss ways of working together for the greater good of the Highlands & Islands music industry. Arthur Cormack is a member of the MIDAS steering group.

## **7.5 The Scottish Parliament**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been involved in lobbying MSPs to ensure that the interests of the Fèisean, and the development of Gaelic and traditional music is discussed within the parliament.

During the course of the Gaelic Education debate in the Scottish Parliament on 3 March, seven out of the nine MSPs who spoke, praised the Fèis movement, and called for greater support for it.

## **7.6 Production of new *Fèis Facts* leaflets**

A series of 10 new *Fèis Facts* leaflets were produced, and customised these for the following bodies: (1) Argyll & Bute Council, (2) Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, (3) Aberdeen City Council, (4) Edinburgh City Council, (5) Glasgow City Council, (6) The Highland Council, (7) HIE, LECs & Hi-Arts, (8) The Scottish Parliament (all MSPs) and Scotland Office (key officers), (9) The Scottish Arts Council and (10) one for General distribution.

These were widely circulated, and will continue to be used as a means of getting a lot of information across to a large number of people.

## **7.7 Youthlink**

Since taking Fraser Shaw on as a Trainee Youth Worker, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been quite involved in various aspects of Youthlink's work.

7.7.1 The Director and Development Officer attended the Youthlink AGM in Edinburgh, where a short presentation was made to the members gathered to explain more of the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, before being admitted as full members of the organisation.

7.7.2 David Boag has attended Chief Officer's meetings with Youthlink Scotland in Edinburgh on a regular basis, as well as a residential meeting in December 1999. This allows the main officers from member organisations of Youthlink to come together to discuss youth work issues.

Common areas of concern and development between Fèisean nan Gàidheal and other youth organisations, discussed at these meetings include Child Protection/SCRO checks, along with Community Learning Plans and Target Setting & Monitoring.

## **7.8 Cultural Strategy**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was represented at several of the meetings organised around the country to consult on a National Cultural Strategy.

David Boag prepared a response to the strategy on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which was duly submitted, and the Voluntary Arts Network, in its submission, highlighted the Fèisean as a shining example of how community arts should be structured, at the same time as pointing out that more support is needed.

## **7.9 Comunn na Gàidhlig Board of Directors**

We continue to be represented on the CnaG Board, and the Director and Development Officer attended the 1999 Còmhdhail, held in Portree.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal fully supports Comunn na Gàidhlig's aim of achieving official status for the Gaelic language, and there is two way representation, with Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Chairman, John MacDonald, a member of the CnaG Board of Directors, and Kristine Kennedy from CnaG attending our Board meetings.

## **7.10 National Mod and An Comunn Gàidhealach**

Up until May 2000, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was represented on the National Mod Committee by Board member Coll MacDougall. Callum MacDonald, the National Mod Manager, in turn represented An Comunn Gàidhealach on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board. Following Callum's departure from An Comunn Gàidhealach, the ties have not been maintained.

Shortly before Callum left, David Boag met with him to discuss possible changes to the HIE-sponsored *Rock Awards*. Redefining the competition to more adequately reflect the current scene amongst young musicians, was the main area covered, along with possible changes to the age range, and it was agreed that Gaelic song must be the focus for the competition, with perhaps two songs being the minimum requirement as part of any competitor's programme.

Unfortunately, this was never followed up, and all the efforts now seem to be centred around the *Oran Ur* competition.

## **7.11 Iomairt Chaluum Chille**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Officer, David Boag, attended a meeting of Iomairt Chaluum Chille in Belfast, organised by the Northern Ireland officer, Calum Scott. The theme was cultural tourism, and was most useful from the point of view of the groups and individuals it brought together.

This followed a presentation at last year's Annual Conference by Donald Angaidh MacLennan, the Scottish officer of Iomairt Chaluum Chille, in which he expressed the desire to get the Fèisean more involved in making links with Ireland.

## **7.12 Gaelic Development Task Force**

Alasdair Morrison MSP, Minister for Gaelic, announced in October 1999 that he was setting up a Task Force to carry out a review of all Gaelic organisations, and to ascertain, amongst other things, if there was any mileage in the idea of there being only one Gaelic development body.

In common with the other organisations, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was asked to submit a Position Statement to the Task Force, by 13 January 2000, and met with the members on Tuesday 29 February in Inverness.

## **7.13 Sradagan**

David Boag attended the national Sradagan Conference, held in Inverness, the annual gathering of the Sradagan groups working in communities throughout Scotland, providing out-of-school Gaelic language opportunities for both fluent speakers and learners.

It was obvious from the conference that Sradagan and Fèisean, where possible, should co-operate more closely, as a 'pooling' of resources would undoubtedly result in a more satisfactory outcome for all concerned, most of all the young Gaels. They quite often operate in the same communities, with the same children, with the same organisers and with the same issues. Sradagan organisers, in particular, mentioned that they would like to see a greater degree of co-operation between themselves and Fèisean, opening up opportunities for year-round Gaelic-medium musical workshops. For example, a trip organised by the Acharacle Sradagan group to Fèis Tir a' Mhurain, was judged to have been a great success.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has begun the process of building closer links, and has been cooperating in offering joint training in Child Protection issues for Fèis and Sradagan organisers and leaders.

## **8 KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **8.1 Ceòl nam Fèis Concert**

Our third *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert was held in Inverness on 22 January 2000, which turned out to be a huge success in terms of attendance, quality of performances, and organisation.

Eden Court Theatre was sold out - no mean feat - and the event was televised by MnE Television, with funding from Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig.

Every participant, every organiser, and every helper was thanked for their part in making the day and night a success. The Fèis organisers, both on the day, and beforehand, were fantastic, and the participants really gave their all on the night.

Thanks must go to Frank McConnell, Ingrid Henderson and the rest of the team, Rae MacColl, Iain MacFarlane, Allan Henderson, Rachel Walker, Eilidh MacLeod, Fraser Shaw, John Martin and Carol-Anne MacKay, without whose expertise and commitment, the show would not have happened.

No date has yet been set for transmission of the programme, but the CCG plans to mail out cards with the date as it approaches. The broadcast of the concert will be preceded by a documentary on the Fèis movement, also produced by MnE, with funding from CCG.

### **8.2 Fèis Alba**

A very successful second Fèis Alba took place in Portree, Skye, from 5 - 9 July 1999, and was attended by 42 participants. Financial support came from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the SAC National Lottery New Directions fund, HIE and Highland Council.

The Fèis also attracted large audiences to the performances and late night traditional music sessions, held at the Aros Centre.

Fèis Alba is a separate company, which includes representatives of Pròiseact nan Ealan, An Comunn Gàidhealach and HI-Arts, in addition to Fèisean nan Gàidheal. The Chair of Fèis Alba is currently John MacDonald, Chair also of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, in keeping with the Memorandum and Articles of association of Fèis Alba. The company also has four other Directors; Calum MacDonald, Dr Angus MacDonald, Kate Martin and Rita Hunter.

### **8.3 Cultural Youth Exchanges**

8.3.1 Fèis Bharraigh welcomed their Tongan friends to the island in April 2000, as the second leg of their Commonwealth Youth Exchange.

8.3.2 Fèis Dhun Eideann are still hoping to have a group of participants travel to the Ukraine, fulfilling the return leg of an exchange they have forged with youngsters from the East European nation. The fund raising had been a monumental task for all those involved and the committee were hopeful that everything would go ahead as planned. However, the situation in the Balkans gave cause for concern, and the trip was postponed.

8.3.3 Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich have been researching the possibility of organising a trip to New Zealand, again, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council.

8.3.4 Fèis an Earraich organised a trip to Paderborn, Germany, where they took part in a festival which drew on participants from all over Europe. The festival ran from 30 May to 7 June 1999, and the visit included ten youngsters from Fèis an Earraich, two from Fèis Lochabair and one from Fèis Spè, who was studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

8.3.5 Fèis Rois has continued its very successful exchange with the young people of Co Roscommon in Ireland, and again, participants from there took part in the October Fèis Rois nan Deugairean. They have also been involved in the recording of joint tracks for a CD.

### **8.4 Review of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's work**

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board held a re-focussing session to discuss way in which Fèisean nan Gàidheal should be developing. There were several reasons for this:

- 1 The organisation's Development Plan is due for renewal from April 2001. To allow the Fèisean to be consulted, a sensible timescale had to be established, and this process got the ball rolling.
- 2 It appeared from the lack of response to some communications from Fèisean nan Gàidheal to its membership, that there is a communication problem within the Fèis movement. The organisation needed to find out exactly what the membership wants from Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- 3 There were aspects of the series of regional Fèis meetings held in 1998, which needed to be acted upon, and a session like this highlighted these once again.
- 4 In common with other organisations, Fèisean nan Gàidheal always needs to examine its performance, and be sure that it is developing in the right direction, and delivering services that we undertake to deliver.
- 5 The public profile of the Fèis movement needed to be looked at. PR was considered to be more important, and perhaps we needed to have someone to regularly produce stories and press releases for the organisation.

A summary of the Board's deliberations are given at Appendix 3 to the Annual Report.

### **8.5 Archive of Local Gaelic Arts**

To begin the process of looking to see if there is a way of accessing old material, and collecting material, new and old, for archiving, the Board invited Dr Martin MacIntyre of *Tobar an Dualchais* to make a presentation to one of our meetings to let us know how the Fèisean could potentially benefit from this major archival project.

The presentation was very useful, and gave food for thought as to how individual Fèisean could benefit from this major archival project, and indeed, contribute to it.

It is still an aim of Fèisean nan Gàidheal that local archives, built up by Fèis participants, should be established,

as a way of ensuring that young people become interested in their local culture, and a project along these lines is being considered, in conjunction with the Fèis Support Workers.

## **8.6    [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org)**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is now well and truly on the web, with a site at **[www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org)**, which is packed full of information and news about every member Fèis. Within it is a Fèis Chat page, where anyone can post news about events or whatever they think will be of interest to Fèis supporters everywhere. The site has consistently been attracting around 25 hits a day.

In a related development, and with the expansion of staffing in recent months, individual e-mail addresses have been introduced, making it possible to contact each member of staff using the feisean.org domain name. For example, Arthur Cormack is **<[arthur@feisean.org](mailto:arthur@feisean.org)>**, David Boag is **<[david@feisean.org](mailto:david@feisean.org)>**, Anne Willoughby is **<[anne@feisean.org](mailto:anne@feisean.org)>** and so on.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director  
September 2000

## 9 CONTACT WITH FEISEAN AND FEIS NEWS

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's main work has always been, and will continue to be, keeping in regular touch with its member-Fèisean, and developing along the lines the Fèisean themselves wish to develop.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff are in regular contact with Fèis organisers, tutors, and communities wishing to establish new Fèisean.

It is not possible to detail every single visit, or contact made, but the following is a sample of such work throughout 1999/2000.

**9.1 Fèis Chataibh** A visit was made by David Boag in response to a request from the committee for more support from Fèisean nan Gàidheal. They were particularly worried about the lack of community response to the Fèis, leaving the burden of work on the shoulders of a small group of individuals. They were also worried by the fact that Fèis Alba was taking place the same week as their own Fèis in 1999.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal subsequently submitted an article to the *Northern Times* to raise the profile of the Fèis locally. Given that this was their tenth year and that four of their tutors for '99 have come from within their own ranks, this made for an excellent piece. The story duly appeared and the 1999 Fèis Chataibh took place successfully from 5 - 9 July.

**9.2 Fèis Arainn** David Boag visited Arran prior to the Fèis which took place from 27 - 30 July 1999. This was for a committee meeting and all seemed to be progressing well, with the Fèis having recently received a grant from the National Lottery *Awards For All* programme.

David was able to offer some advice on the general organisation of the Fèis and wrote a piece to the *Arran Banner* to publicise the Fèis and the movement generally. This was published to coincide with the launch of the Fèis application form, with which members of the Fèis committee toured local schools, to explain what the Fèis was to the island's youngsters.

**9.3 Fèis Innis an Uillt** Following a phone conversation with Donald McComb, a Gaelic-medium teacher at Meadowburn Primary School, David agreed to visit the school, as the unit was celebrating ten years and the local Comann nam Pàrant wanted to mark the anniversary in a special way. They approached Fèisean nan Gàidheal in the hope that we could help.

Advice was offered, and an explanation given, of the benefits that could be gained by establishing a Fèis and becoming a member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Fèis Innis an Uillt was established, and tuition was offered entirely through the medium of Gaelic at a pilot workshop day on 22 May, at Meadowburn Primary School. They now hope to develop, offering year-round activity, and perhaps organising an annual Fèis.

**9.4 Fèis Rois Oigridh** David Boag attended Fèis Rois Oigridh in Ullapool, where over 150 youngsters from all over Ross and Cromarty were gathered. Once again, it was heartening to see many young tutors, assistant tutors and supervisors, many of them former Fèis Rois participants, being employed.

There was a great range of classes on offer to suit all tastes, including *Oran agus Spòrs*, for those children receiving Gaelic Medium education at school.

The week was rounded off as usual with a sell out concert at the Ullapool Leisure Centre, where a crowd of over 500 enjoyed the music, song and dance.

**9.5 Fèis an Earraich** Fèis an Earraich took place in Plockton High School and Hostel. Around 90 participants travelled from all parts of Skye and Lochalsh, with one or two from other areas attending.

Of particular interest was their Fèis nan Deugairean, which was a dedicated class for senior participants. This

seemed to work well and is perhaps a model which other Fèisean could adopt to retain the interest of their teenagers. It is unlike Fèis Rois nan Deugairean, in that it exists alongside the normal Fèis, and can cater for smaller numbers than those attracted to Gairloch annually.

**9.6 Fèis Lochabair** David also made a trip to Fèis Lochabair where he saw rehearsals for the evening concert. In total, 92 participants took part in the event.

One outstanding feature of Fèis Lochabair was the degree to which the committee members share the burden of work during the week. They seemed to have a well organised rota, ensuring that, whilst someone is always on hand, it is not always the same person. Lochaber High School offers a great venue for the Fèis, with everything, including the Assembly Hall, under the one roof.

The concert was very good indeed and played to a large audience of approximately 250/300 parents and friends of the Fèis.

**9.7 Fèis Latharna** Fèis Latharna 1999 took place in Oban's Park Primary School, which marked a great improvement in venue from the previous year. The move meant that there was sufficient space to have all the activities under the one roof, with plenty areas for large activities such as art, groupwork and evening concerts.

For the first time, the organisers noted an increase in interest from parents and friends, in attending the Fèis evening activities, including a dance. This had the effect of not only raising awareness of the Fèis, but also added to the coffers.

In total, 80 plus participants took part in the Fèis and marked the end of a successful year for Fèis Latharna. Over the previous few months, they had run a number of Saturday workshops, attended by, on average, 100 participants.

**9.8 Fèis Eige** An excellent atmosphere as both the island's residents and friends and relatives from away came 'home' for the Fèis. Held in 'the big house', the surroundings were grand, if a little dilapidated. The dance on Saturday drew a huge crowd and went a long way to offsetting the costs.

**9.9 Fèis Thiriodh** Again, an excellent atmosphere, despite fiddle tutor Angus Grant's sudden departure due to a medical emergency, which, thankfully, he recovered very well from. Facilities at the school were just right, and the Fèis enjoyed the support of the island community, who turned up in their droves to all events. Dr John Holliday wrote subsequently, to voice his feeling that Fèisean nan Gàidheal should be doing more to employ emerging young musicians, eg RSAMD graduates, in programme of follow-on classes in the more remote communities. In particular, he highlighted a real need to improve Gaelic song provision.

**9.10 Fèis Bharraigh** The 1999 Fèis Bharraigh was marred by a tragic road accident mid-way through the fortnight, and for this reason, many of the usual events programmed were, understandably, cancelled. However, the resolve of the committee and the community ensured that the children's concert was excellent and enjoyed by all.

The Fèis Bharraigh committee also raised concerns about a growing financial deficit, and were seeking ways of restructuring the Fèis, so that the burden of running a two week event could be reduced. With this in mind, David Boag agreed to return to the island on 14 September 1999 to talk through a few ideas with the committee.

Participants from Fèis Bharraigh were featured in a BBC 2 Scotland feature entitled *Bho Thangusdail gu Tonga* which documented the first leg of their Commonwealth Youth Exchange with the Polynesian paradise.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal received many messages of praise for the programme and congratulations must be passed on to BBC Scotland, Metagama Productions and the Fèis Bharraigh Committee.

**9.11 Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan** David visited the school in Acharacle to find the place drying out from what one tutor described as 'monsoon-like' conditions. In a community where public buildings are in short supply, the use of scattered halls, the school and a large marquee were the order of the day, highlighting

vulnerability to the elements. However, a strong team of committee, tutors and supervisors, seemed to be creating a happy mix of learning and fun.

**9.12 Fèis Dhàil Rìata** David met with the committee of An Comunn Gàidhealach, Meur Ceann Loch Gilp, to discuss the future of Fèis Dhàil Rìata. Fèis organiser, Peter MacIntyre, had written describing his wish to relinquish his role in organising the Fèis, and cited the lack of young musicians in the area as a problem. However, it is hoped that we may be able to look at ways of starting more regular tuition classes, perhaps tying in with Fèis Latharna.

**9.13 Fèis na h-Oige** For the second year running, Fèis na h-Oige, the Inverness based Gaelic medium Fèis failed to get off the ground in 1999. Organiser David MacLennan felt parents of children at Gaelic medium schools were not willing to commit to the event, and he indicated that he no longer wished to be involved.

Morag MacCallum of Highland Council's Community Education department, circulated a questionnaire amongst parents at Central Primary School, Inverness, to assess parents/participants needs for a Fèis. There seemed to be general support for the Fèis to be reinstated.

David Boag met with David MacLennan at which he agreed to step aside, once a new committee has been formed, but in the meantime, continued to run the Fèis clàrsach classes.

It seemed an appropriate time to think on a wider scale and develop a Fèis for north mainland Gaelic medium participants. To this end, it is envisaged that a working group made up of of Comann nam Pàrant groups, Sradagan groups/workers, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Community Education may be established to move the idea forward.

**9.14 Fèis Oigridh Glaschu** Fèis Oigridh Glaschu is organised by the Glasgow Gaelic Drama Association and David attended one of their regular committee meetings. The Fèis is mainly drama based, with some musical off shoots and the bulk of it's participants attend local Gaelic medium primary schools. However, they also do outreach work in the area that was formerly Strathclyde Region, including Argyll and the Isles. There is a real emphasis on the social aspect of the Fèis, with Gaelic speaking youngsters coming together to use their language skills in a less formal setting, out of school.

They were particularly keen to see the expansion of drama to other parts of the country, through the Comunn na Drama mechanism. There had been a falling off in participation in Gaelic drama festivals generally and they enquired as to how the Fèis movement could help to reverse this trend. They mentioned that they have a set of scripts for short drama pieces that could be printed up for use at Fèisean or other Gaelic youth groups such as Sradagan.

Subsequently, Fraser Shaw visited this year's Fèis at the Mitchell Theatre, and was thoroughly impressed by the performances. Discussions have been initiated with Argyll & Bute Council with regard to setting up a similar event in their area.

**9.15 Fèis Spè** The 1999 event was held at the Loch Insh Watersports Centre, Kinraig and attracted a healthy number of participants from all over the area. The Fèis had many new tutors and a new organiser, Sue Thomas, who did well to get the Fèis going as well as it did, so soon after taking over the reins. There was the usual good atmosphere and the participants and tutors seemed to be enjoying themselves.

**9.16 Fèis Rois nan Deugairean** Around eighty young folk from Ross-Shire, surrounding areas and Ireland gathered in Wester Ross for the annual senior leg of Fèis Rois in October 1999. Again, the standard of tuition and participants was extremely high. Gillian Pate of Youthlink also took the opportunity to visit the Fèis that day, as Fraser Shaw was there in a supervisory capacity as part of his Route 98 induction. She, too, was thoroughly impressed

The final concert was of a really high standard, and it is obvious that the process of junior and senior provision, augmented by a substantial year round programme is having a really positive impact on traditional Gaelic music, song and dance in the area.

The Fèis was visited by Gaelic broadcasters MnE Television, who were filming for a documentary on the Fèis movement.

After years of wishing, hoping, dreaming, planning and writing application forms, things really took off towards the end of 1999 at Fèis Rois.

In November, the team was joined by a Business Development Manager, Lorraine Fraser from Muir of Ord. The post, which is being supported by Ross and Cromarty Enterprise, will allow Fèis Rois to explore a wide range of commercial, sponsorship, fundraising and cultural tourism opportunities.

There was more good news shortly after that, with the news that a Scottish Arts Council Lottery application, totalling £62,371, had been successful. This will allow Fèis Rois to carry out key new developments in bringing traditional music, song and dance into Ross and Cromarty schools. The project will also see the appointment of an Education Development Officer, who was due to take up post early the new year.

**9.17 Fèis a' Bhaile** This took place in Inverness' Charleston Academy in October 1999, and attracted over 60 participants. The school offered a great location for the Fèis, with the large hall allowing for easy whole Fèis gatherings. Again, MnE were on hand to film the action.

The final concert took place in the Haughdale Hotel, which was packed to the rafters with parents, friends and supporters. The concert was of excellent quality and enjoyed by all who were there.

**David Boag**  
Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer  
September 2000

## 10.0 Financial Statements 1999/2000

### 10.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal trading account for the year to 31 March 2000

	31.03.2000	31.03.1999
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Grant income	143,677	132,281
Membership fees	1,940	1,730
Bank interest	220	442
Other income	4,636	1,666
Book sales	1,250	1,608
Instrument bank revenue	3,520	5,868
Ceòl nam Fèis concert	4,051	2,084
	<u>159,294</u>	<u>145,679</u>
Scottish Arts Council National Lottery grant release	6,750	6,750
	<u>166,044</u>	<u>152,429</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff fees	38,045	34,236
Staff expenses	11,677	9,031
Grants paid out	56,972	37,129
Office expenses	1,413	1,550
Accommodation, travel & subsistence	6,120	8,369
Stationery & printing	7,524	6,379
Bank charges	5	5
Training Programme	1,473	5,378
Music book fees	2,017	2,246
Annual Conference	4,061	4,217
Other expenses	4,591	5,123
Auditor	350	350
Accountancy	561	1,000
Rent	4,250	4,250
Insurance	2,313	3,909
Ceòl nam Fèis	13,141	12,154
Fèis Alba	3,561	5,542
	<u>158,074</u>	<u>140,868</u>
	7,970	11,561
Depreciation:		
Office equipment	3,148	3,449
Musical instruments	10,736	12,418
	<u>13,884</u>	<u>15,867</u>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b><u>(£5,914)</u></b>	<b><u>(£4,306)</u></b>

10.2 **Fèisean nan Gàidheal balance sheet as at 31 March 2000**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible assets	21,197	35,801
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	2,400	3,215
Debtors	13,453	17,396
Cash in hand and at bank	12,288	6,737
	<u>28,141</u>	<u>27,348</u>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	(20,895)	(21,322)
	<u>7,246</u>	<u>6,026</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		
	<u>28,443</u>	<u>41,107</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		
	<u>(13,382)</u>	<u>(20,132)</u>
	<u>15,061</u>	<u>20,975</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Profit and loss account	15,061	20,975
	<u>£15,061</u>	<u>£20,975</u>

## Appendix 1

## Board Members 1999/2000

- 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 **Nanac Skivington, *Treasurer***, 3 Grenitote, Sollas, North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5BP  
(Fèis Tir an Eòrna) Telephone 01876 560247
- 4 **Alasdair Beattie**, 31 Dillichip Close, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dumbaron, G83 9JP  
(Fèis Dhun Bhreatuinn an Iar) Telephone 01389 755744
- 5 **Catriona MacIntyre**, 7 Camaghael Road, Caol, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 7HU  
(Fèis Lochabair) Telephone 01397 703180
- 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 Smith**, 14 Jamieson Drive, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles,  
(Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich) Telephone 01851 702520
- 10 **Kirsteen Graham**, 14 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8DA  
(Fèis an Earraich) Telephone 01471 822671
- 11 **Kristine Kennedy**, C/o Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness IV2 3HQ  
(Observer; Comunn na Gàidhlig) Telephone 01463 234138 Fax 01463 237470
- 12 **Jim Morrison**, 30 Wyvis Crescent, Conon Bridge, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV7 8BZ  
(Observer; Development Officer, CYEC) Telephone 01349 861110
- 13 **Malcolm MacLean**, 10 Shell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2EA  
(Observer; Director, National Gaelic Arts Project) Telephone 01851 704493
- 14 **Jim Tough**, Scottish Arts Council, 12 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7DD  
(Observer; Scottish Arts Council) Telephone 0131 226 6051 Fax 0131 225 9833
- 15 **Cllr Katie M MacKenzie**, Comhairle nan Eilean, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis  
(Observer; Comhairle nan Eilean representative) Telephone 01851 703773
- 16 **Caroline MacLeod**, HI-Art, Bridge House, 20 Bridge Street, Inverness, IV1 1QR  
(Observer; HI-Arts representative)
- 17 **Arthur Cormack**, Nicolson House, Somerled Square, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9EJ  
(In attendance; Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director) Telephone 01478 613355
- 18 **David Boag**, Nicolson House, Somerled Square, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9EJ  
(In attendance; Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer) Telephone 01478 613355

## Appendix 3

## Report on the re-focussing session held at Board Meeting 21.09.99

The following is a summary of the discussions which took place in the above session, in very shorthand form, together with comments on any points actioned by the following meeting, held on 6 December 1999, or an indication of likely action dates, given in bold.

The Board had spilt into 3 groups, and the summary is given under each group. Where issues were duplicated in groups, only additional points are summarised.

### GROUP A

- Need for administrative help
- **(action: Regional Fèis Workers as a first step - January 2000)**
- Pre-Fèis meeting should be re-introduced, and perhaps made compulsory
- **(action: Perhaps make a condition of grant)**
- Child protection issues to be dealt with
- **(action: Decide on best way forward with regard to training at December Board meeting, and also introduce as a condition of grant)**
- Perhaps Fèisean should receive extra funding if they employ Gaelic-speaking tutors
- Aims of Fèisean need to be addressed: What are they aiming to do? Are they a taster or performance development? Are they there to preserve Gaelic culture? Are they viewed as Gaelic out-of-school activities?
- Fèis Alba needs to revisit the age range it caters for: 16 - 25 is not working, 14 - 20 would be better
- **(action: Kate Martin has drafted a questionnaire to be discussed at Fèis Alba Board, December 99)**
- When should Fèis Alba be?
- **(action: Discuss at Fèis Alba Board, December 99)**
- Teenage provision in general needs to be examined by Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Should there be a lot more provision, feeding into Fèis Alba?
- **(action: Discuss at December Board meeting)**
- AGM & Conference: The AGM is mandatory, but the conference is pointless without a good programme
- **(action: Decide on time of year and format as a first move - December Board meeting)**
- Archives of local material could be delivered through the Fèisean, not centralised, but available in all areas
- **(action: Speak to Tobar an Dualchais - December Board meeting)**

### GROUP B (additional points to group A)

- Newsletter should contain more contributions from Fèisean
- **(action: Must be a two-way process, but we will invite Fèisean to submit articles, news etc - early 2000)**
- AGM should be stand-alone with a big Ceilidh, in September, and with no conference
- **(action: Decide on time of year and format as a first move - December Board meeting)**
- A loose-leaf Fèis manual is required, which can be updated at any time
- Fèis Alba should concentrate on 16 - 18 year olds
- **(action: Discuss as Fèis Alba Board, December 99)**
- PR needed throughout the Fèis movement. Lots of good news stories, but they are not getting out.
- News from Board meetings could go out more regularly
- Fèisean need a higher profile
  
- Fèisean nan Gàidheal should gather £1,000,000 in a Trust Fund and distribute the interest to Fèisean
- **(action: Learn from Comhaltas Ceóltoiri Eireann, whom David has already contacted. Possible study visit in Spring 2000 with support from Iomairt Chaluim Chille)**
- Fèisean nan Gàidheal could run a National Raffle, leaving 90% of sales with local Fèisean
- **(action: Learn from Comhaltas Ceóltoiri Eireann, whom David has already contacted. Possible study visit in Spring 2000 with support from Iomairt Chaluim Chille)**

## **GROUP C (additional points to groups A & B)**

- AGM format needs to be changed. The Annual Report should be the key, with each Fèis leading a topic, a sharing of experience, and early date setting
- **(action: Decide on time of year and format as a first move - December Board meeting)**
- There should be participant representatives and tutor representative on the Board
- **(action: Tied to the AGM proposals - December Board meeting)**
- Communication problems could be solved by ensuring every Fèis has their own e-mail address under Fèisean nan Gàidheal's domain name 'feisean.org'
- Fèis Alba should not clash with Ceòlas, the target market should be widened, and there should be some exploration of what older participants need to make them want to attend
- **(action: Fèis Alba Board, December 99)**
- Board meetings need a shake up. There should be more small group discussions, more input to the agenda from Directors and Fèisean, overnight stays should be encouraged to facilitate the informal discussions of the past, Directors should perhaps have a 'year out' after serving 3 years, and there should be one residential meeting per annum
- **(action: Arts In Business training day for the Board as a first move - December 7)**
- All aspects of training needs to be addressed
- **(action: Discuss further at the December Board meeting, but on-going discussions are taking place with other organisations following SAC report)**

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November 1999



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