



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

The National Association of
Gaelic Arts Youth Tuition Festivals

Athaisg Bhliadhnail 2002 Annual Report 2002

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Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Athaisg Bhliadhnail 2002

Annual Report 2002

Introduction from the Chairman

- 1 Fèisean ann an Alba 2001-02 and Fèis Facts**
- 2 Staffing**
- 3 Finance**
- 4 The Board of Directors**
- 5 Core Activities**
- 6 Membership Services**
- 7 Advocacy and collaboration with other agencies**
- 8 Key Developments**
- 9 Fèis News**
- 10 Financial Statement 2001-02**

Appendix 1 Board Members 2001-02

Appendix 2 Fèis Contacts



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

FACAL BHON CHATHRAICHE

Tha e air a bhith na thoileachadh dhomh a bhith nam chathraiche air Fèisean nan Gàidheal thairis air a' bhliadhna seo, agus tha mi toilichte cuideachd Athaisg Bhliadhnail Fèisean nan Gàidheal 2002 a chur fo ur comhair, ann am bliadhna far an robh iomairt nam Fèisean a' sìor-fhàs agus a' leudachadh.

Tha Fèisean air a bhith ann an coimhearsnachdan, mòr is beag, air an dùthaich agus anns a' bhaile mhòr, air eileanan agus air tìr mòr, air feadh na dùthcha.

Ged a tha iomairt nam Fèisean soirbheachail - agus is iad an luchd-taic saor-thoileach agus proifeasanta a tha gan ruith a bu chòir a mholadh airson sin - tha dùbhlain fhathast romhainn. Feumaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a bhith a' strì airson leasachaidhean cànan agus cultarach Gàidhlig. Feumaidh sinn pàirt mhòr a ghabhail anns na leasachaidhean cànan a tha air thoiseach oirnn le Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a thèid a chur air dòigh a dh'aithghearr mar chiad cheum ann a bhith a' coileanadh Athaisg Mheek, *Cothrom ùr don Ghàidhlig*.

Bu chòir dhuinn cuideachd cothrom a ghabhail fhads a tha Comhairle Ealain na h-Alba a' sgrùdadh nam buidhnean a mhaoineachas iad gach bliadhna, agus còmhradh a chumail airson dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil an t-airgead a gheibh sinn bhuapa aig ìre fhreagarraich airson an obair againn a dhèanamh mar bu chòir.

Tha na Fèisean an còmhnaidh air am moladh gu mòr airson nan dòighean-obrach aca, ach a dh'aindeoin iomadach oidhirp conaltraidh eadar na Fèisean agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba, agus coinneamh le Ministear na Gàidhlig Mìcheal Mac Bhàtair na bu thràithe air a' bhliadhna, cha d' fhuair sinn barrachd taic-airgid airson na sinn a' dèanamh. Seo mar a tha an suidheachadh ged a tha obair nam Fèisean a' bualadh gu sònraichte air feadhainn de phrìomh amasan an Riaghaltais is òigridh, agus taic do chur seachadan cultarach nam measg.

Air a' bhliadhna seo, bha sinn toilichte àrdachadh airgid a thoirt dha na Fèisean air fad bhon a fhuair sinn fhìn àrdachadh bho Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba. Ged a tha sinn a' tuigsinn gu bheil airgead a dhìth air na Fèisean ionadail fhathast, tha na suimean airgid a tha sinn a' tabhainn dha na Fèisean an urra ris na sinne a' faighinn a-steach. Tha sinn mothachail air an-seo ged tà, agus tha sinn air a bhith a' còmhradh ri Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean mu chothroman barrachd airgid fhaighinn. Eadar seo agus Comhairle Ealain na h-Alba a' sgrùdadh nam buidhnean a mhaoineachas iad gach bliadhna, gheibh sinn cothrom feumalachdan nam Fèisean a thaobh airgid a mhìneachadh dhaibh.

Leanaidh sinn oirnn leis na còmhraidhean, agus tha sinn an dòchas gun tig tuilleadh airgid àsta.

Dh' fhàg Lena Nic il' Iallain sinn aig deireadh 2001 airson Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean agus thàinig Fiona Nic Aonghais na h-àite aig toiseach 2002. Anns an Og- mhìos 2002, dh' fhalbh Jennifer Marshall gu obair ùr ann an Iapan agus thàinig Cairistìona Nic an t-Saoir na h-àite. Ged a chaidh na h-atharrachaidhean ud a sparradh oirnn, tha luchd-taic nam Fèisean a' leantainn orra a' cuideachadh nam Fèisean aca fhèin.

Leis mar a tha na h-obraichean seo pàirt-ùine agus na comataidhean a tha iad a' frithealadh, gu ìre mhòr, saor-thoileach, tha duilgheadasan air a bhith ann an-dràsda 'sa rithist taic fhreagarrach a thoirt do chuid dhe na Fèisean. O chionn ghoirid, rinn Fèisean nan Gàidheal measadh neo-eiseamaileach air cho soirbheachail sa tha luchd-taic nam Fèisean agus thèid athaisg fhoillseachadh aig Coinneamh Bhliadhnail na buidhne. Thig molaidhean às an-seo a chruthaicheas deasbad air an t-slighe air adhart gus taic a thoirt dha na Fèisean tro structar air choreigin de luchd-taic air tuarasdal. Tha sinn an dùil a chluinntinn bho na Fèisean fa leth anns an deasbad airson dèanamh cinnteach gum faigh iad an taic a tha a dhìth.

Bu mhath leam taing a thoirt dhan luchd-taic saor-thoileach air fad ann an iomadach coimhearsnachd air feadh na dùthcha a tha ag obair gun sguir do mhaith iomairt nam Fèisean.

Bu mhath leam cuideachd taing a thoirt do bhuill a' Bhùird a tha air a bhith gu math dìcheallach fad na bliadhna a' sìor-leudachadh obair na buidhne.

Cha bhiodh e ceart seo a sgrìobhadh gun iomradh a thoirt air Donaidh Moireach nach maireann, a bha uair na chathraiche air Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich, a chaochail na bu thràithe

air a' bhliadhna. Mar chomhairliche aig Comhairle nan Eilean, thàinig e gu ar coinneamhan Bùird mar neach-aire. Bha e taiceil dhan chùis ann an iomadh dòigh, agus bha e cuideachd gu feum mar neach-teagaisg drumaireachd a bha fileanta ann an Gàidhlig.

Tha bliadhna gu math soirbheachail air a bhith againn. Fhuair sinn cothrom Iona NicDhòmhnaill fhasdadh mar Neach-leasachaidh Trèanaidh. Anns a' Ghiblean agus a' Chèitean, chaidh na cuirmean ciùil roinneil, Ceòl nam Fèis, air adhart agus abair gun do shoirbhich leotha. Cuideachd, thug sinn cothrom do 15 luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig pàirt a ghabhail ann an Cùrsa Inntigidh air a ruith le Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Thadhal sinn ann an Eirinn far an do bhruidhinn sinn ri buidhnean thall mu chò-obrachadh ri chèile.

Ged a bha againn ri bhith a' deasachadh agus a' daingneachadh am bliadhna, tha deagh naidheachd air a bhith againn on uairsin mu airgead agus tha seo a' ciallachadh gum faod sinn tòrr dhe na prìomh amasan againn a choileanadh mar a thèid a' bhliadhna air adhart.

Tha sinn mothachail gu bheil a' chuid as motha dhe na Fèisean air an ruith le comataidhean saor-thoileach agus tha a' bhuidheann a' toirt an aire nach eil sinn a' sparradh tuilleadh leasachaidhean air daoine a tha fo uallach trom mu thràth. Tha sinn a' feuchainn ri ar sgeamaichean-thabhartasan a shìmpleachadh airson nach bith na h-uiread de dh' obair pàipeir nan lùib, agus tha sinn cuideachd a' feuchainn ri leasachaidhean ùra ann am Fèisean ionadail a mhaoineachadh.

Feumaidh a' bhuidheann deànaimh cinnteach gu bheil sinn a' cosg ar cuid airgid gu ciallach agus cothromach. Ged a tha luchd-taic saor-thoileach a' faireachdainn aig àmanna gu bheil iad a' dol fodha ann am pàipear agus gu bheil aca ri bhith a' cumail ri riaghailtean ùra mar eiseamplair ar Poileasaidh Cùraim Chloinne, agus a' cruthachadh agus a' cur an gnìomh Planaichean Leasachaidh Gàidhlig, ar mionnan gu bheil sinn a' feuchainn ri seo a lughdachadh.

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal gu mòr an comain nam buidhnean a tha a' toirt airgid dhuinn agus bu mhath leam taing shònraichte a thoirt do Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba airson taic leantainneach a chumail dhuinn. Cuideachd, feumaidh mi taing a thoirt dhan fheadhainn eile a tha gar maoineachadh: Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean tro HI-Arts.

Tha maoineachadh a' tighinn bho iomadh àite agus tha na buidhnean air fad a tha air airgead a thabhainn do Fhèisean nan Gàidheal air ainmeachadh anns an athaisg, ach bu mhath leam taing a thoirt dhaibh uile gu foirmeil an-seo.

Cumaibh nur cuimhne gu bheil, agus gum bidh, Fèisean nan Gàidheal an urra ri ar buill. Bu chòir dha na Fèisean fios a leigeil do Fhèisean nan Gàidheal ma tha iad feumach air taic. 'S e ar prìomh amas taic a thoirt dha na Fèisean, agus mas urrainn dhuinn cuideachadh sam bith a thoirt seachad, bhitheamaid toilichte sin a dhèanamh.

Iain MacDhòmhnaill
Cathraiche Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Sultain 2002

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of Fèisean nan Gàidheal over the past year, and to present Fèisean nan Gàidheal's 2002 Annual Report, in a year when the Fèis movement has continued to grow and develop.

Fèisean have taken place in communities, large and small, rural and urban, island and mainland, the length and breadth of Scotland.

Successful though the Fèis movement is - due in no small measure to the dedicated volunteers and professionals who run the Fèisean themselves - there are new challenges ahead. Fèisean nan Gàidheal must remain at the forefront of Gaelic language and cultural development, and must continue to take an active part in the future development of the language through the new Bòrd na Gàidhlig, shortly to be set up as the first step in implementing the Meek Report *Cothrom ùr don Ghàidhlig*.

We must also take advantage of the Scottish Arts Council's review of its core funded organisations, and have discussions with them, to ensure that our level of core funding is set at an appropriate level to allow our work to be carried out efficiently.

The Fèisean continue to be highly regarded as a model of good practice, but following repeated approaches to the Scottish Executive, including a meeting with the Minister for Gaelic, Mike Watson MSP, earlier this year, there has been no additional support for the work we do. This is despite the fact that the work of the Fèisean cuts across many of the Executive's priorities including developing youth, social inclusion, lifelong learning, and supporting cultural activities.

This year, we were pleased to be able to increase the percentage of grant to each Fèis, as a result of an increase from the Scottish Arts Council in our core grant. While we fully realise that local Fèisean are still under-funded, the current level of funding we get governs how much we are able to offer. Mindful of this, however, we have been in discussions with HIE about the possibility of enhanced funding, and the Scottish Arts Council's review of its core funded organisations, will give us an opportunity to discuss with them the need for more funding to go directly to the Fèisean.

We will continue to have these discussions, and hope that additional resources result from them.

Lena MacLellan left us at the end of 2001 to work for HIE, and was replaced, early in 2002, by Fiona MacInnes. Then, in June 2002, Jennifer Marshall left to take up a post in Japan, and was replaced by Christine MacIntyre. These changes notwithstanding, the Fèis Support Workers have continued to offer assistance to the Fèisean they support.

It is clear, however, that the part-time nature of these posts, and the voluntary nature of the sector they serve, has occasionally caused difficulties in offering appropriate support to a small number of Fèisean. Fèisean nan Gàidheal has recently undertaken an independent assessment of the effectiveness of the Fèis Support Workers, the results of which will be published at the organisation's AGM. This will make recommendations which will lead the discussion on how best we can continue to support the Fèisean with some sort of structure of paid workers. We look forward to having the input of the individual Fèisean to that process, to ensure they get the support needed.

I would like to pay tribute to all the volunteer organisers and helpers in the many communities throughout the country who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the Fèis movement.

I would also like to thank the Board members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal who have served with dedication over the past year, and presided over the development of the organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Donnie Murray, former Chair of Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich, who passed away this year following a period of illness. While he was a member of Comhairle nan Eilean, he attended our Board meetings as an observer, and made a significant contribution to the Fèis movement, not least as a Gaelic-speaking drumming tutor.

Highlights of the year included the employment of a Training Development Officer, Iona

MacDonald, and the preparation of the successful regional Cèol nam Fèis concerts, which were held in April and May. We also offered 15 people the opportunity to take part in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's Cùrsa Inntrigidh, Gaelic distance learning course, and paid a visit to Ireland to have discussion with organisations over there, as to how the Fèisean can work with them.

While the year was one of planning and consolidation, we have since had very good news on funding, and this will mean that many of our key developments can begin to be realised this year.

We are always mindful of the fact that the majority of Fèisean continue to be run by dedicated volunteers, and we are always wary, as an organisation, of introducing developments which place even more of a burden on already stretched people. We are attempting to streamline our grants schemes, so that there will be less paperwork and fewer deadlines. We are also trying to accommodate new developments in local Fèisean.

However, the organisation has a commitment to ensure that the funding we are given is spent wisely, and is accounted for properly. While this inevitably means that volunteers have to cope with paperwork, and comply with new regulations - such as our Child Protection Policy, and the production and implementation of Gaelic Development Plans - please be assured that we will always try to minimise this work.

We are very grateful for the funding granted to the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and I would like to thank the Scottish Arts Council for its continuing support. 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, but I would like to formally record our thanks here.

Please remember that Fèisean nan Gàidheal is, and will 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 2002

1 Fèisean ann an Alba 2001-02 and Fèis Facts



FEIS FACTS 2001-02			
Total number of Fèisean	37	Total number of participants	4,037
Local authority breakdown:			
Highland Council Area	18	Main Fèisean	
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	6	Total number of Tutors employed	408
Argyll & Bute	4	Total expenditure by Fèisean	£ 227,555.00
Edinburgh City	1	Total granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£ 61,260.00
Aberdeen City	1	Year-round classes and workshops	
North Lanarkshire	1	Total number of sessions offered	1,867
Glasgow City	3	Total expenditure by Fèisean	£ 72,869.00
West Dunbartonshire	1	Total granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£ 21,429.00
East Dunbartonshire	1		
North Ayrshire	1	Total Fèisean nan Gàidheal grants	£ 82,689.00

2 STAFFING

The core staff consists of **Arthur Cormack**, Director (0.8 FTE), **David Boag**, Development Officer (1.0 FTE) and **Anne Willoughby**, Administrator (0.8 FTE). From April 2002 they were joined by Training Development Development Officer and TMTTN co-ordinator, **Iona MacDonald** (1.0 FTE). In addition, Fèisean nan Gàidheal currently employs four regionally based 0.6 FTE Fèis Support Workers on a project basis.

They are; **Ingrid Henderson**, who covers Skye, Lochaber, Speyside and Aberdeen; **Rachel Walker**, who covers Northern Highland and Edinburgh; **Fiona MacInnes**, who covers the Western Isles and **Jennifer Marshall**, who covers Argyll, Argyll Islands and Glasgow.

Fiona MacInnes replaced Lena MacLellan as Western Isles Support worker in January 2001, and Jennifer Marshall will be replaced in August 2002 by Christine MacIntyre for the Argyll, Argyll Islands and Glasgow area.

Since November 2001, David Boag has been based at an office in The Castle, Inverness. Based within the Portree office is Louise Mackenzie, the Traditional Music Co-ordinator for Skye and Lochalsh, running An Drochaid - the Skye & Lochalsh Traditional Music Project, which Fèisean nan Gàidheal is contracted to manage on behalf of Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise.

3 FINANCE

3.1 Background

The Financial Statement for 2001-02, has been prepared by Mann, Judd & Gordon, who were appointed as auditors at last year's AGM, and forms part of this Annual Report.

The year was successful, in that Fèisean nan Gàidheal gained some increases in funding, in a period of standstill budgets for many of the main funders. The finances are described in two distinct sections; Core Funding and Development and Project Funds.

3.2 Core Funding

Core funding is granted on the basis that it supports the costs of the core staff (wages, employers' contributions and expenses), block Fèisean insurance, office rental and all associated costs, as well as some elements of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan, such as the Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Our core funding is also used to pay out grants for main Fèisean, essentially providing them with core funding.

With the additional money received as part of the National Cultural Strategy, grants for main Fèisean rose in 2001-02 from 15% to up to 20% of eligible costs. The grant from Highland Council ensures that Fèisean in its area are granted an additional 12.5%, or up to 32.5% of eligible costs. In 2001-02, £61,260 was paid directly to Fèisean under the Grants Scheme for Main Fèisean.

Scottish Arts Council	79,000
Scottish Arts Council - Cultural Strategy	25,000
Highland Council	32,500
Highlands and Islands Enterprise through HI-Arts Contract	15,000
	£151,500

3.3 Development and Project Funds

As well as the core-funding, Fèisean nan Gàidheal works with a wide range of partner organisations to ensure that a range of developments and projects can be undertaken. In 2001-02 these were as follows:

- **Year-round Fèis Activity** - Grants of up to 30% of eligible costs for Fèisean to run regular classes.

Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig	4,000
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Scottish Arts Council Music Committee	12,000
	£16,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fèis Support Workers - To employ and sustain four regionally based workers, 22.5 hours per week. 	
The Carnegie (UK) Trust	10,000
Baring Foundation	5,000
The Highland Council	5,000
Argyll and Bute Council	3,000
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	3,000
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	9,500
	£35,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training Development Officer/TMTTN Co-ordinator - For the employment of a full time Training Development Officer. 	
Highlands and Islands Enterprise through Hi-Arts contract	10,000
Scottish Arts Council	15,000
	£25,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Conference - To support the Fèisean nan Gàidheal's AGM and Annual Conference, held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. 	
Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise	£1,600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New office Equipment - Equipping Meall House with new office equipment and other essential items 	
Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise	£5,600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cùrsa Inntigidh - Support for Fèis organisers and tutors to undertake a distance learning Gaelic course run by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. 	
Comunn na Gàidhlig	£900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gaelic Song writing workshop - A one day course held in Acharacle on 9 March 2002. 	
Social Inclusion Partnership via Hi-Arts	£1,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irish Visit - A study visit to raise the profile of Fèisean nan Gàidheal in Ireland and explore possible joint projects. 	
Iomairt Chaluim Chille	£500

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful to all its funders for their assistance

4 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met four times during the year: on 28 May 2001, 7 September 2001, 3 December 2001 and 4 March 2002. The figures in brackets next to each member indicate actual attendance, compared to possible.

At the AGM 2001, it was agreed that a representative from Fèis Obar Dheathain would be co-opted to the Board, and at the meeting on 3 December 2001, the nomination of Ronnie MacKay was agreed by the Board.

Adopted minutes of all Board meetings, along with Staff Progress Reports, are sent to all member-Fèisean on a regular basis. Board meetings are usually attended by both Arthur Cormack and David Boag, and all other members of staff are encouraged to attend when they can, or if it is particularly appropriate.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2001-02

- 1. John MacDonald *Chairperson*** (4/4 - The Highland Council)
- 2. Rita Hunter *Company Secretary*** (3/4 - Fèis Rois)
- 3. Nanac Skivington *Treasurer*** (3/4 - Fèis Tìr an Eòrna)
- 4. Catriona MacIntyre** (4/4 - Fèis Lochabair)
- 5. Alasdair Beattie** (3/4 - Fèis Dhun Bhreatuinn an Iar)
- 6. Moira Dunlop** (2/4 - Fèis Latharna)
- 7. Morag MacLennan** (4/4 - Fèis Eilean na Hearadh)
- 8. Jessie Newton** (4/4 - Fèis Dhun Eideann)
- 9. Nan Smith** (2/4 - Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich)
- 10. Kirsteen Graham** (4/4 - Fèis an Earraich)
- 11. Ronnie MacKay** (1/1 - Co-opted, Fèis Obar Dheathain)
- 12. Kristine Kennedy** (2/4 - Comunn na Gàidhlig, Observer)
- 13. Malcolm MacLean or Marisa MacDonald** (2/4 - Pròiseact nan Ealan, Observer)
- 14. Cllr Katie MacKenzie** (1/4 - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Observer)
- 15. Caroline MacLeod/Robert Livingston** (2/4 - HI-Arts, Observer)
- 16. Sylvia Dow** (0/4 - Scottish Arts Council, Observer)
- 17. Murdo Morrison** (2/4 - An Comunn Gàidhealach, Observer)
- 18. Arthur Cormack** (3/4 - Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director)
- 19. David Boag** (4/4 - Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer)

5 CORE ACTIVITIES

5.1 Grant Scheme for Main Fèisean

Fèisean nan Gàidheal granted £61,260 to 27 main Fèisean in 2001-02 - an average of £2,268 per Fèis, utilising part of our allocation from the Scottish Arts Council Strategic Development Department, National Cultural Strategy top-up, and The Highland Council. A total of 2,762 individual participants took part, tutored and supervised by 408 paid staff.

In all cases, funding was awarded to the Fèisean following receipt of an application, and an agreed formula was then applied, whereby all Fèisean received up to 20% (32.5% in the Highland Council area) of their eligible costs. The total cost of running all main Fèisean was £227,555 or an average of £8,428 per Fèis. Communities themselves raised £131,332 of this total, through fees, cèilidhs, dances, sales of work, local donations and so on. The remainder was raised through grants from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, local authorities, local enterprise companies, national lottery schemes and donations from other grant making trusts and charities.

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

During 2001-02 Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to fund 2,014 workshop sessions involving 19 Fèisean, 209 tutors and 4,037 participants. Grants totalling £21,429 were committed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal through support from the Scottish Arts Council Music Committee and Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig.

5.3 Annual General Meeting and Conference

The 2001 AGM and Conference was held in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, on 6 and 7 September 2001. The event celebrated 20 years of the Fèis movement, commemorated by a special audio-visual presentation, and panel-led discussion, chaired by broadcaster, Lesley Riddoch. The annual dinner was followed by superb entertainment from youngsters from Fèis Lochabair. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for financial assistance from Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise to support the event.

5.4 Training programme

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been extremely busy over the last twelve months in the area of training development. After the completion of a training development plan, funding from the Scottish Arts Council of £15,000 and from Highlands and Islands Enterprise £10,000 was secured. This was to employ a training development officer to jointly progress the development of Fèisean nan Gàidheal specific training, plus the development of the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN). Interviews for the post were conducted in March 2002, with Iona MacDonald being appointed, selected from a very strong field of candidates.

Specific training over the year 2001-02 included:

- Third tutor training weekend, 2 and 3 March 2002 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
- Gaelic song writing workshop, Acharacle, 9 March 2002 with financial assistance from the SIPs scheme, via Hi-Arts.
- Fifteen Fèis tutors and Organisers registered for the Cùrsa Inntigidh - Access to Gaelic Course.

5.5 Ceòl nam Fèis books

Sales of the *Ceòl nam Fèis* books - Volume 1 and 2 have been good over the last twelve months. The first edition of Volume 1 has now sold out, and a reprint is expected to be available by the end of September 2002.

5.6 Links with formal education

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to have strong links with the formal education sector, including the School of Excellence at Plockton High School, primary and secondary schools throughout the country and regular contact with a number of FE establishments including Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the RSAMD and Strathclyde University.

6 MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

6.1 Directory of Fèis Tutors

The Directory of Fèis Tutors continues to be a valuable resource for member Fèisean and other organisations. This is continually updated, with new names constantly coming into the office for inclusion. It is anticipated that a substantial update will be required with the introduction of SCRO checks for all Fèis tutors in the latter part of 2002.

6.2 *Faileas* - Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter

Three issues of *Faileas* were circulated in 2001-02 and this remains an effective way of disseminating information. At present, we send more than 1,000 copies out each time it is published, and this remains an effective and popular means of communication with Fèis members and other interested parties. Increasingly, this goes directly to interested parties via e-mail, saving a great deal in terms of printing and postage, and is posted on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website.

6.3 Working with Local Authorities

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to work in close partnership with members and staff of a wide range of Local Authorities. In addition to their on-going core and grant-aid support the Highland Council, along with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll and Bute Council have been of vital support in establishing and maintaining the Fèis Support Workers posts.

However, a great deal of support comes from a wide range of authorities, directly to Fèisean in their area. They include the Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Argyll and Bute Council, Glasgow City Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Edinburgh City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, North Lanarkshire Council and North Ayrshire Council. Their help, in either direct or in-kind support, is of vital importance to the continued success of the Fèis movement in Scotland.

6.4 Funding initiatives

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has kept in touch with funding opportunities over the past twelve months, and passed on relevant information to its members.

Local Fèisean have been particularly successful in securing grants from the Awards for All small lottery grants scheme. Many have used the grants to buy and set up instrument banks of their own, lessening the need to rely on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal bank.

Three major lottery applications were submitted during 2001-02, and have been successful. In all, around £209,000 of new lottery money will be ploughed into the Fèis movement over the next three years, 2002-05, resulting in over £0.5 million in increased activity.

Fèis Latharna, based in and around Oban, in a joint initiative with Fèis Mhuile, Isle of Mull, were awarded £48,200 towards the cost of a three-year programme of Gaelic music, song and dance tuition activities totalling £63,000.

6.5 Musical Instrument Bank

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal instrument bank is still in heavy demand from Fèisean, and from individuals, keen to make use of the opportunity to try out an instrument before they commit to the full cost.

In response to demand for specific instruments, a bid was made to the SAC National Lottery during 2001-02, which has since been successful. Fèisean nan Gàidheal was awarded a capital grant of £27,801 towards the purchase of £37,500 of new clàrsaich, hard clàrsach cases, accordions and fiddles. These will be purchased during 2002-03, once matching funding has been secured.

6.6 Insurance

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently insured by the Ansvar Insurance company. As well as cover for Fèis activities and instruments, the policy provides better cover for the company and employees from eventualities such as personal injury. This continues to be a significant saving for member Fèisean, giving them, and their equipment, an excellent level of protection.

6.7 Gaelic resource book

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic resource booklet *Gàidhlig do Luchd-tòiseachaidh* continues to be of great use to Fèisean. An accompanying CD was produced during 2001-02 and will be available by September 2002.

7 ADVOCACY and COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

7.1 Scottish Arts Council

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), both as a key funder and development partner in a number of projects. Arthur Cormack is a member of the SAC Music Committee. Sylvia Dow, the SAC Head of Education, has taken over from Jim Tough as our Lead Officer, and she came to Skye in July 2001 to meet up and find out more about the Fèis movement. From now on, Sylvia will be our main contact within SAC, and will deal with our annual applications, review meetings and so on.

7.2 Local Authorities

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to work in close partnership with members and staff of the three key Local Authorities; the Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and Argyll and Bute Council.

However, we must also acknowledge the assistance of Glasgow City Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Edinburgh City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, North Lanarkshire Council and North Ayrshire Council, and acknowledge too, that the Fèisean in these areas need to foster close links with their local

authority.

7.3 HI-Arts

Arthur Cormack is a director of HI-Arts Ltd, and attends Board meetings, and other HI-Arts events, on a regular basis. HI-Arts is represented on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board in an observer capacity, with either Caroline MacLeod or Robert Livingston attending regularly.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has a Service level Agreement with HI-Arts, which is agreed annually, and which outlines what we are expected to deliver for the funding we receive from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, which is paid through the HI-Arts contract.

7.4 Scottish Arts Council/Visit Scotland Traditional Music & Tourism Initiative

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Director was a member of this group, which released its final report, *A Sound Track for Scottish Tourism 1999-2002* in February 2002. This included a joint Scottish Arts Council/Visit Scotland seminar in Inverness, which highlighted the Fèis Rois Cèilidh Trail as a case study.

7.5 The Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Traditional Arts - START

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has regularly been represented at these meetings over the last twelve months, which are chaired by the group's Convener, Cathy Peattie MSP. As well as the gatherings, there is a healthy e-mail group in place, which has resulted in a few interesting debates. However, there is some disquiet that the group is not progressing as it could, with very poor attendance from MSPs.

7.6 The Skye and Lochalsh Traditional Music Project - An Drochaid

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is contracted to manage and host this project on behalf of Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise. It too, has been successful in securing 3 years of lottery funding - £96,800 in all.

7.7 InvernessHighland2008

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has contributed a great deal to the support of Inverness and the Highlands' bid to become European Capital of Culture in 2008, with David Boag attending various meetings, both to discuss the bid and provide public support. It is expected that a decision on the bid will be made by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport during October 2002.

7.8 Comunn na Gàidhlig

Fèisean nan Gàidheal remains in close contact with Comunn na Gàidhlig, with Kristine Kennedy represented as an observer at Board meetings. John MacDonald, is a member of the Comunn na Gàidhlig Board, and David Boag is invited to attend these meetings as an observer.

The two organisations have worked closely on a number of projects over the last year, in particular, co-operating in the implementation of SCRO checks on behalf of Fèisean and Sradagan groups.

7.9 National Mod and An Comunn Gàidhealach

Murdo Morrison of the Royal National Mod Company is an observer at Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board meetings. Arthur Cormack was Fear-an-Taighe at the Tuesday night Children's Concert, broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal from Stornoway.

7.10 Ministerial Advisory Group on Gaelic (MAGOG)

The group was established as a result of the Gaelic Task Force Group report, chaired by John Alick MacPherson. This new group, chaired by Professor Donald Meek undertook four consultation days in Inverness during September 2001. Fèisean nan Gàidheal was represented at all of these meetings, and the group's final report *Cothrom ùr don Ghàidhlig* was published in May 2002.

In addition, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Director attended a meeting with MAGOG to discuss a strategic plan for Gaelic development, and co-operated in providing figures as to the extent of our work.

The major recommendations of the report are that a new development agency - Bòrd na Gàidhlig - should be established to co-ordinate Gaelic development, and that this should be backed up by a Gaelic Language Act.

7.11 Pròiseact nan Ealan

Work with Pròiseact nan Ealan has been limited over the last year, but the organisation continues to have observer status at Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board meetings, with either Malcolm MacLean or Marisa MacDonald being in attendance.

Pròiseact nan Ealan has been instrumental in establishing the Gaelic Arts Strategic Development (GASD) group to foster closer co-operation within the Gaelic Arts, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a member of this.

7.12 Comhaltas Ceóltoirí Eireann

A group from Fèisean nan Gàidheal visited Ireland, from 28-30 November 2001, to raise awareness of the Fèis movement amongst organisations there, find out more about them, and explore the possibility of increased links in the future. This visit attracted £500 in support from Iomairt Chaluim Chille.

The group consisted of John MacDonald, Arthur Cormack, Anne Willoughby and David Boag. The FnG staff were joined by Brian O hEadhra of Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh, who was brought up in Dublin, and who provided a wealth of good information and contacts before and during the trip.

The group travelled from Edinburgh to Dublin, staying at the Headquarters of Comhaltas Ceóltoirí Eireann (CCE) in Monkstown. From this building they provide support to some 400 branches world-wide. The group also met with Jim McAllister, chair of the Cluain Tarbh CCE branch, based in north Dublin. In addition, the group met with Irish Minister for Tourism, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Marie Nì Chochlain, plus representatives from a wide range of organisations, including Còmhdhail Nàiseanta na Gaeilge, Fórras na Gaeilge, CCE, Gael-Linn, Iomairt Chaluim Chille and the British Council.

From this trip, it was clear that there was a great deal of interest in exploring exchange programmes between Fèisean in Scotland, and a wide range of similar community groups in Ireland.

7.13 Youthlink Scotland

Fraser Shaw's placement with YouthLink Scotland as Trainee Youth Worker hosted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal ended in 2001-02. Fraser continued to work with Fèisean nan Gàidheal on a project basis, assisting with the staging of Fèis Alba 2001, and the subsequent recording project. Fèisean nan Gàidheal would like to thank Fraser for his spell with the organisation, and wish him well for the future.

8 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

8.1 Regional Ceòl nam Fèis Concerts

In the wake of three highly successful Ceòl nam Fèis concerts staged at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, it was decided to hold four regionally based concerts, highlighting the work of the Fèisean within each of the four support worker areas.

A great deal of preparation work was done over the year, and while it had originally been hoped to hold these in the latter part of 2001-02, weather and travel considerations meant that they were rescheduled to take place in April and May 2002, which they did.

8.2 Fèis Alba 2001

Fèis Alba 2001 took place in Ullapool, from 29 June until 4 July, with a total of 25 participants

taking part. Again, those who took part enjoyed a first rate experience from the team of tutors.

It was obvious that the participants were really keen to develop their skills, and fully engaged in the extremely full programme of subject workshops, recitals, professional development sessions and evening groupwork. The week was rounded off with an in-house cèilidh, at which the participants performed their groupwork pieces.

Katherine Liley, a student on Strathclyde University's Community Music course, attended the Fèis and undertook an extensive study of the week, interviewing students, tutors and organisers. This was to find out how Fèis Alba can develop in the future, now that it has come to the end of the initial funding period. This is a very detailed study, and will be of immense help over the coming months.

A member of the Fèis Alba Board, Kate Martin, attended for the week, and her help and support was very much appreciated. This also afforded the opportunity for Kate to have a good look at how Fèis Alba was run, and how we may move forward.

A proposed tie up between Fèis Alba and the Oran Ur competition was presented to the participants, but no-one came forward expressing an interest in taking part. Therefore, this did not happen for this year, but it is hoped that a link can be made in the future.

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 www.feisean.org

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal site at www.feisean.org is packed full of information and news about every member Fèis. In addition, you can buy copies of the *Ceòl nam Fèis* books online. The site continues to attract around 25 unique hits per day.

8.4 Stakeholder Pensions

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is strongly committed to looking after those who work for the organisation. In keeping with new legislation, the organisation introduced a Stakeholder Pension Scheme, with Marks & Spencer as our pension provider, in October 2001. The Board of Directors has subsequently agreed to make a 5% contribution to employees' pension funds.

8.5 Move to new premises

Fèisean nan Gàidheal moved into new premises at Meall House, Portree on 24 May 2001. This was a fairly substantial undertaking, assisted greatly by the services of a local removal firm.

The new offices, which are rented to us by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, offer greatly improved accommodation, with adequate space for all employees, a kitchen area, an instrument store room, and a meeting room. This is all for the same price as we were paying for Nicolson House.

8.6 The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre Company

Over the course of the year, Fèisean nan Gàidheal submitted an application to the SAC National Lottery, with the aim of providing financial support to establish a Gaelic-medium theatre in education company. The idea grew out of a project initially run by Fèis Dhun Eideann, when it became clear that there was demand nation wide for Gaelic medium theatre-in-education for all levels of Gaelic speakers. The outline proposal was successful, and the final decision on funding was also successful.

8.7 Child Protection Updates

Fèisean nan Gàidheal and member-Fèisean have been operating the organisation's Child Protection Policy for approximately two years now. The provision of access to Criminal

Records Office (SCRO) checks has been widened through two new organisations, Disclosure Scotland and Volunteer Development Scotland. This will allow a range of individuals and organisations the opportunity to access SCRO checks, that will help in their determination of a person's suitability to work with young people and vulnerable adults.

Although this process is not yet a legal requirement, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been working throughout the year to introduce SCRO checks as a key development in the Child Protection Policy.

8.8 Gaelic Development Plans

All member-Fèisean have been involved, this year, in the production of Gaelic Development Plans. Many of them received assistance from their Fèis Support Worker.

The aim of each plan, the production and implementation of which is now a condition of grant, is to demonstrate clearly how the individual Fèisean would develop the use of Gaelic at their event, in relation to the status of Gaelic within their local community. This process came up with many interesting and innovative approaches to the use of Gaelic, and demonstrates a clear commitment across the movement to Gaelic language development.

9 FEIS NEWS

This section gives a brief summary of the activities of member Fèisean over the year 2001-02. This is by no means all of the activity, but is designed simply to give a flavour of the work undertaken. The report is presented under the heading of the Fèis Support Worker for that particular group of Fèisean.

FEIS SUPPORT WORKER - INGRID HENDERSON

FEIS AN EARRAICH, Skye and Lochalsh

This year's main Fèis took place in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, from Skye, 2 - 6 April 2001, with more than 100 young people taking part. Joining them this year was a group from the Armagh Piper's Club, fulfilling the second leg of an exchange visit that was partly funded by Iomairt Chaluim Chille. In addition, the Fèis undertook follow-on classes in instruments including fiddle and pipes. A successful application was made to Awards for All, and the Fèis is looking at plans to establish a Summer Cèilidh Trail programme.

FEIS LOCHABAIR, Lochaber

The main Fèis took place again in Lochaber High School, from 2 - 6 April 2001 after a year in Caol Primary School, due to refurbishment work. In total, 148 participants attended, with the majority of the tutors coming from the local area. In addition, the follow-on programme was very successful, with all of activity being concentrated on a Fèis night in Lochaber High School.

FEIS EIGE, Isle of Eigg

The Fèis took place on the island on the weekend of 13 - 15 July 2001, with 50 participants taking part. Although no follow-on programme currently exists, the Fèis was successful in securing an Awards for All grant to run these classes. As well as funding to bring tutors to the island, the money will assist children on the mainland attending high school, to take part in other classes run by Fèis Lochabair and Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan.

FEIS NAN GARBH CHRIOCHAN, West Lochaber

The main Fèis took place in and around the village of Acharacle, from 23 - 27 July 2001, attracting 85 participants. As well as this, the Fèis operates an extensive follow-on programme, including regular sessions in Acharacle, Morar and Arisaig primary schools.

FEIS OBAR DHEATHAIN, Aberdeen

This took place in the city's Gaelic school, Gilcomston Primary from 16 - 18 February 2002. Over 80 young people took part, many of whom attend the Gaelic unit. As well as a wide range of subjects for the over eights, the younger participants had their own Fèis nan Oig. A very successful event, with a good deal of support from the committee.

FEIS SPE, Speyside

This year's Fèis Spè took place from 15 - 19 October, for the first time at the Badaguish

Outdoor Centre. In total 63 people took part, in a wide range of Gaelic music, song and dance workshops. Over the year, Ingrid Henderson has been assisting the committee with the implementation of their Gaelic development plan, and researching funding possibilities for the employment of a Fèis worker. As with many Fèisean, the voluntary Fèis Spè committee find it difficult to commit enough time to organise and develop the event.

FEIS RATHARSAIDH, Isle of Raasay

The annual Fèis Ratharsaidh took place from 7 - 9 February 2002, with a total of 27 participants being offered workshops in Highland dance, pipes, song, accordion, clàrsach, Gaelic drama, games, art, drums and guitar. Drama, fiddle and song were offered through the medium of Gaelic

FEIS THRODAIRNIS, Trotternish, North Skye

This year's main Fèis took place from 2 - 6 July 2001, with a total of 58 young people from all over the area taking part. This year, the Fèis was centred in Kilmuir, with daily transport laid on for those from the areas of Skeabost, Uig and Staffin. In addition, there was a lively programme of follow-on workshops, including fiddle, step-dance and pipes, plus a special one-day taster session during February 2002.

FEIS SUPPORT WORKER - JENNIFER MARSHALL

FEIS ARAINN, Isle of Arran

This year's Fèis took place from 16 - 20 July, and attracted 75 participants. As with all Fèisean over the year, the Fèis implemented their Gaelic development plan, with one of the measures being basic instruction in key Gaelic phrases for the tutors with no Gaelic. This was led by Jennifer Marshall. In addition, the Fèis was successful in securing Awards for All money to run two workshop days during the spring of 2002.

FEIS CARMUNNOCK, Glasgow

This was the first year of this Fèis, and the run up involved a number of fund-raising events. The Fèis itself took place with a day of activities on 26 May 2001. In total, 40 participants took part, with a great deal of positive feedback.

FEIS DHUN BHREATUINN AN IAR, Dumbarton

The Fèis faced some financial uncertainty this year, as their local authority was not awarded Gaelic specific funding from the Scottish Executive this year. However the Fèis ran from 20 February to mid March, with a series of six weeks in six subjects based in the Concorde Centre, Dumbarton. In addition, the Fèis applied for, and were successful, in an Awards for All application.

FEIS INNIS AN UILLT, Meadowburn Primary School, Bishopbriggs

This Gaelic-medium Fèis is centred around the Gaelic-medium unit at Meadowburn Primary School, Bishopbriggs, and this year held Fèis days on 9 and 16 February 2002. Approximately 33 young people took part in each of the days.

FEIS LATHARNA, Oban

The main Fèis took place 17 - 20 April 2001, with 104 participants taking part. In addition, the Fèis organised two pre-Fèis workshops on 9 and 23 February, prior to the 2002 Fèis. Approximately 70 took part in the main Fèis, and 30 in Fèis Bheag. These workshops covered all the subjects available at the main Fèis, and included a local history project. A native Gaelic speaker from Oban was involved with the participants, looking at topics such as local place-names. An outline application to the Scottish Arts Council lottery fund for a part time workshop co-ordinator, to arrange classes in Lorne and Mull and to organise outreach events in the surrounding areas, was given approval in October 2001.

In response to the requests for Fèis activities in the surrounding areas, the Fèis worked with the group Meanbh-Chuileag, organising visits to the primary schools in Oban, Lismore and Colonsay with related community workshops. These took place from 24 - 31 August 2001, and the project had a very positive response from the schools.

FEIS LANNRAIG A TUATH, Condorrat

This was the very first event held by the new Fèis Lannraig a Tuath on 20 April, and is based around the Gaelic-medium Unit at Condorrat Primary. Organised by a group of parents from the school's Comunn nam Pàrant group, Christine Kilgour the main Fèis contact, reported that the day had gone very well. Although the number of classes was relatively small, they

are keen to expand, and are looking forward to more great days ahead.

FEIS OIGRIDH ILE, Isle of Islay

There have been a great deal of difficulties with Fèis Oigridh Ile this year, stemming mainly from a lack of volunteers. The existing committee, who had successfully run the event for years, felt that it was time for them to move on. However, after a spell without a chair, a new committee was formed, but they felt unable to run a Fèis this year. Discussions are on-going, and it is hoped that the establishment of Ionad Chaluim Chille will in part help to revive the Fèis.

FEIS MHUILE, Isle of Mull

As with Fèis Ile, this has been a difficult year for Fèis Mhuile, with problems getting a committee together. As such, no main Fèis took place, although there was some follow-on activity in the form of accordion and fiddle classes. It is hoped that the joint bid to the National Lottery with Fèis Latharna will help revitalise the event.

FEIS OIGRIDH GLASCHU, Glasgow

This took place with a drama performance at the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow during April 2001. This was preceded by a series of drama workshops in Gaelic-medium schools in the Glasgow area. A total of 120 individual young people took part.

FEIS SGOIL GHAIHLIG GLASCHU, Glasgow

Jennifer Marshall helped the school organise a 'come and try' day in June 2001, which was attended by around 60 participants. The school received money from the New Opportunities fund for workshops which took place from 21 - 25 January. Assisting them was a story teller from Celtic Connections, which was running at the same time.

FEIS THIRIODH, Isle of Tiree

The Fèis took place from 8 - 13 July 2001 after a break of one year. A total of 36 young people took part in a range of workshops. The Fèis had hoped to be in the new hall for 2001, but unfortunately, the funding package for this fell through. Instead, they made use of Tiree High School for both the workshops and evening events.

FEIS SUPPORT WORKER - RACHEL WALKER

FEIS A' BHAILE, Inverness

A total of 54 participants took part in this year's main Fèis a' Bhaile, from 22-26 October, held at Charleston Academy, Inverness. In addition, the committee ran a series of follow-on workshops in fiddle, accordion and clàrsach, and included a joint Gaelic drama workshop with Fèis na h-Oige.

FEIS CHILLE MHORAIG, Kilmorack, by Beaully

Their main Fèis event was held in and around Beaully on 22 September 2001, and attracted 61 participants.

There was a large change in personnel within the committee, as the previous group had stood down due to other pressures on their time. The new group are working well together, and functions are delegated fairly amongst them all.

When the Gaelic Development plans were being written, Fèis Chille Mhòraig came up with the idea of recording a Gaelic CD to go along with the Fèisean nan Gàidheal booklet as a learning resource. They decided that this was too big a project for them to undertake and they asked Rachel Walker to complete the project. The CD was recorded by Màiri Kidd and Douglas Beck, and will be available to all Fèisean as a valuable Gaelic resource.

FEIS NA COMRAICH, Applecross

Fèis na Comraich held a Fèis day on 21 September 2001, a full day of workshops followed by a cèilidh, both of which were well attended. The Fèis committee has had significant problems over the course of the year, mainly caused by differences in opinion as to how the Fèis, and other cultural priorities in the community, should be balanced. This resulted in a number of resignations from the committee. These places have now be filled, and the Fèis is now making progress.

FEIS CHATAIBH, Sutherland

This year has probably been the most successful in the history of the Fèis to date. The main

Fèis, from 2 - 6 July 2001, attracted 73 participants, and their series of Saturday workshops was hugely popular. In addition, the Fèis was granted £4,500 from Awards for All, plus £600 from Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise for follow-on workshops and instruments, including new clàrsachs bought from Starfish Designs. Rachel Walker undertook a series of visits to 8 local schools from which participation in the Fèis previously had been patchy, which resulted in some new faces at the Fèis.

The Fèis was also successful in securing three-year funding to establish a summer Cèilidh Trail, based on the Fèis Rois model, to tour around the tourist sites of Sutherland over summer 2002.

FEIS DHUN EIDEANN, Edinburgh

In total some 50 participants took part in the main Fèis which took place at Gillespie's High School from 20 - 23 February 2001. A few additional participants from different schools attended too, as a result of Rachel Walker visiting some local schools. The Fèis also continued to run a huge programme of nearly 300 separate follow-on workshops, in subjects including Gaelic drama, clàrsach and, for more experienced players, a band workshop. As part of their continued commitment to Gaelic development, the Fèis has been examining plans to establish a stand alone Gaelic-medium event, which they hope to run in November 2002.

FEIS NA H-OIGE, Inverness

Fèis na h-Oige have had their most active period in some years, with full day Saturday sessions in October, November and December 2001. All of the workshops took place at Inverness High School. These attracted participants from the Inverness Gaelic-medium Unit at Central Primary School, plus some from Dingwall, Tain, Ullapool and Lochcarron. They were also successful in an application to Awards for All for the purchase of instruments. Over the year, the Fèis committee members were exploring the idea of establishing a three-day Fèis event, which they hope will take place in July 2002.

FEIS ROIS, Ross-shire

Fèis Rois goes from strength to strength, with another highly successful year in 2001-02. Fèis Rois Oigrìdh took place in Ullapool from 2 - 6 April 2001, with a record 150 participants accommodated throughout the village. Ullapool High School and the MacPhail Centre provided space for both the workshops and concerts.

This was followed a month later by Fèis Rois Inbhich, also in Ullapool, over the May weekend.

The summer months were occupied with the Fèis Rois summer Cèilidh Trail, which took the performance of a group of 10 young musicians the length and breadth of the county from 17 July - 10 August. As well as a valuable asset for tourists, it is clear that the young people involved gain significant training as part of the process.

The final major event of the year was Fèis Rois nan Deugairean, which took place from 22 - 26 October. For the first time in it's history the Fèis took place in Ullapool, with Gairloch no longer proving to be suitable due to the destruction, by fire, of the Gairloch Sands Hotel. A total of 76 participants took part, with 19 of these coming from outwith the Ross and Cromarty area, the extra places being funded by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

In addition to the usual calendar of events, the Fèis Rois follow-on programme provided a huge number and range of regular classes throughout Ross and Cromarty; well over 700 individual workshops, in both informal and formal education settings. A significant development was the establishment of four Teenage Fèis Days, which offered group tuition to senior Fèis participants from all over the Highland region. These were hugely successful, with excellent results demonstrated at the regional Ceòl nam Fèis concert in Dingwall on 19 April 2002.

FEIS STRATH FHARRAGAIG, Farr, by Inverness

The Fèis, based in the community hall at Farr, continued with its series of Friday evening workshops throughout the winter months, including sessions on 16 November and 14 December 2001. On offer was tuition in a wide range of disciplines including Gaelic and fiddle. It was hoped that these two classes in particular could continue on a more regular basis as they has proven to be so popular. The Fèis held a fund-raising Gala in August, which, with help from the Fèisean nan Gàidheal grant and participant fees, sustained the programme.

FEIS SUPPORT WORKER - LENA MACLELLAN and FIONA MACINNES (from January 2002)

FEIS BHARRAIGH, Isle of Barra

This year's Fèis took place from 23 - 27 July 2001, with a total of 98 young people taking part. This was the first time that the Fèis had run for a week, instead of the traditional fortnight. Over previous years, the Fèis had incurred significant debts as a result of a drop in income, and steady expenditure. These debts were cleared with help from the Fèis Bharraigh Trust, and the local community. This year, the Fèis broke even, and it is hoped that it is now on a more stable financial footing. There were some problems establishing a committee, but this issue was resolved in time for Fèis Bharraigh 2002, which was shaping up to be a huge success. This, of course, is the original Fèis, 2001 being the 21st Fèis in a row. Meallaibh ur naidheachd! I have it on good authority that the 25th anniversary Fèis is already in the planning!

FEIS EILEAN AN FHRAOICH, Isle of Lewis

Based in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich 2001 attracted a large number of participants; 205 in total. For the first time, events were held outwith Stornoway, with two nights in Taigh Dhonnchaidh, Ness. The Fèis incurred a small deficit, due to an increase in tutors' expenses. However, the committee worked hard over the year to clear this, and ended the year on a sound financial footing.

FEIS EILEAN NA HEARADH, Isle of Harris

This year's Fèis was held in the primary school at Tarbert, as Sir E Scott school was undergoing major refurbishment work, as were schools used by Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich and Fèis Tìr an Eòrna. This proved to be less suitable than the larger school. However, 46 young people attended the event. As with the neighbouring Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich, most of the tutors were based locally, which is a significant saving in terms of travel and accommodation costs.

FEIS TIR A' MHURAIN, South Uist

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain took place in Sgoil Lionacleit from 22 - 27 July 2001, with a total of 53 young people taking part. The Fèis, entirely taught through the medium of Gaelic has developed a national reputation, and regularly attracts young people, not only from the local area, but from other islands and the mainland.

With this in mind, it has become clear that Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain could play an even more significant role if it was able to offer residential accommodation. A bid to the Rural Challenge Fund for this purpose was eventually rejected during the year, but the Fèis was successful in securing funds from Uist 2000 to employ a worker on a short-term basis. The Fèis also ran a series of follow-on classes over the course of the year.

FEIS TIR AN EORNA, North Uist

The main Fèis, based in Sgoil Pabail took place from 2 - 6 July 2001, again attracted a record-breaking number of participants, with 110 signed up for the week. The Fèis continues to show excellent growth and standards, in part driven by the follow-on programme covering subjects including fiddle, pipes and song. This was particularly evident in the first choice classes during the Fèis week.

FEIS TAIGH DHONNCHaidh, Ness, Isle of Lewis

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was delighted to welcome Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh as a member; the first new Fèis in the Western Isles for a number of years, and reflecting the demand in the Ness area of Lewis. Taigh Dhonnchaidh has quickly established itself as a centre of tuition within the area, offering classes in fiddle, song, guitar, melodeon and piano. The house itself was left to Comunn Eachdraidh Nis by Duncan 'Major' Morrison, as a place that was to be used very much for this purpose.

10.0 Financial Statements 2001-02

10.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal trading account for the year to 31 March 2002

	31.03.2002	31.03.2001
	£	£
Income		
Grant Income	214,725	158,489
Membership Fees	2,645	2,435
Bank Interest	246	329
Other Income	150	54
Book Sales	6,224	2,806
Instrument Bank Revenue	4,549	3,243
Management Fee - SLTMP	4,680	2,155
Fèis Alba	-	11,658
Carnegie United Kingdom Trust	10,000	10,000
	-----	-----
	243,219	191,169
Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Grant Release	6,632	6,750
	-----	-----
	249,851	197,919
Expenditure		
Wages	61,217	65,561
Employers' Contributions	6,190	4,308
Fèis Support Workers	25,176	-
Staff Expenses	5,280	8,270
Grants Awarded	77,501	61,599
Travel for Tutors	1,620	3,374
Stationery & Printing	8,646	1,979
Training Programme	2,830	5,061
Music Book Fees	1,275	4,427
Annual Conference	4,351	3,892
Board Expenses	5,083	3,666
Other Expenses	581	350
Auditor's Remuneration	473	2,978
Youthlink	-	7,235
Professional Fees	1,167	-
Rent and Water	9,194	6,852
Insurance	3,131	-
Light & Heat	1,619	1,038
Fèis Alba	7,885	6,500
	-----	-----
	237,581	158,074
	-----	-----
	12,270	10,739
Depreciation:		
Office Equipment	2,543	2,760
Musical Instruments	6,656	12,418
Computer Expenses	350	400
	-----	-----
	2,721	15,578
	-----	-----
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	£2,721	(£4,839)
	-----	-----

10.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal balance sheet as at 31 March 2002

	2002	2001
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	10,078	8,815
Current Assets		
Stocks	9,000	8,595
Debtors	27,056	7,052
Cash in Hand and at Bank	9,867	14,822
	-----	-----
	45,923	30,833
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(43,058)	(22,794)
	-----	-----
Net Current Assets	2,865	8,039
	-----	-----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	12,943	16,854
Accruals and Deferred Income		(6,632)
	-----	-----
	12,943	10,222
	-----	-----
Reserves		
Profit and Loss Account	12,943	10,222
	-----	-----
	£12,943	£10,222
	-----	-----

Appendix 1**Board Members 2001-02**

- 1 **John MacDonald, *Chairman***, Lònach, Kilmore, Sleat, Isle of Skye, IV44 8RG
(Co-opted) Telephone 01471 844351
- 2 **Rita Hunter, *Secretary***, The Stables, Allangrange, Munloch, Ross-shire, IV8 8NZ
(Fèis Rois) Telephone 01349 862600
- 3 **Nanac Skivington, *Treasurer***, 3 Grenitote, North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5BP
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- 4 **Alasdair Beattie**, 31 Dillichip Close, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dumbarton, G83 9JP
(Fèis Dhun Bhreathuinn an Iar) Telephone 01389 755744
- 5 **Catriona MacIntyre**, 7 Camaghael Road, Caol, Inverness-shire, PH33 7HU
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- 6 **Moira Dunlop**, Sealladh Eite, Achaleven Road, Connel, Argyll, PA37 1PF
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- 7 **Morag MacLennan**, 4 Scaristavore, Isle of Harris, Western Isles, HS3 3HX
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- 8 **Jessie Newton**, 6 St Margaret's Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1AZ
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- 9 **Nan Smith**, 14 Jamieson Drive, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles,
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- 10 **Kirsteen Graham**, 14 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8DA
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- 11 **Ronnie MacKay**, 20 Grant Road, Banchory, Kincardineshire, AB31 5UR
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- 12 **Kristine Kennedy**, C/o Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness IV2 3HQ
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- 13 **Malcolm MacLean**, 10 Shell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2EA
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- 14 **Sylvia Dow**, Scottish Arts Council, 12 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7DD
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- 15 **Cllr Katie M MacKenzie**, Comhairle nan Eilean, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
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- 16 **Caroline MacLeod**, HI-Art, Bridge House, 20 Bridge Street, Inverness, IV1 1QR
(Observer; HI-Arts representative) Telephone 01463 244300
- 17 **Murdo Morrison**, 109 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1EY
(Observer; An Comunn Gàidhealach) Telephone 01463 231226
- 18 **Arthur Cormack**, Meall House, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9BZ
(In attendance; Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director) Telephone 01478 613355
- 19 **David Boag**, 2nd Floor, North Tower, The Castle, Inverness, IV2 3EE
(In attendance; Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer) Tel 01463 225559

Appendix 2

Fèis Contacts 2001-02

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