Facal bhon Chathraiche
Introduction from the Chairman

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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
Tha e air a bhith na thoileachadh dhomh a bhith nam chathraiche air Fèisean nan Gàidheal a-rithist air a’ bhliadhna seo, agus tha mi toilichte cuideachd Athaisg Bhliadhnull Fèisean nan Gàidheal 2003 a chur fo ur comhair, ann am bliadhna far an robh iomairt nam Fèisean a’ sior-fhàs agus a’ leudachadh. Tha Fèisean air a bhith ann an coimhearsnachdan air feadh na dùthcha agus faodar a ràdh gur e buidheann fior nàiseanta a tha ann am Fèisean nan Gàidheal a-nise.

Chaidh sgrùdadh mionaideach a dheànamh air maoineachadh airgid Comhairle Ealan na h-Alba an-uirdh agus bha e na thlachd dhomh gun tàinig Fèisean nan Gàidheal às le càirdachd cudromach air a bhith nam chathraiche air a bhráthar dhomh. Bha sinn cuideachd air leòd toilichte grunnan dhuaisean mòra de mhaoineachadh fláighinn tro airgead a’ Chhrannchuir Nàiseanta aig Comhairle Ealan na h-Alba, a thug cothrom dhuininn cuíd de na leasachaidhean mòra againn a thoirt gu bul. Leis an airgead ud, tha sinn air siostam computar agus seòladh post-d a thabhainn dhan a h-uile Fèis fon t’ainn ‘fèisean.org’. Bu choir seo a bhith na chuideachadh leis na trioblaidean conaltraidh a mhinich Stiùbhart Brownlee na athaisg air Lucht-taic nam Fèisean. Tha sinn cuideachd air a thabhachadh leis na trioblaidean conaltraidh a mhinich Stiùbhart Brownlee na athaisg air Lucht-taic nam Fèisean.

Fhaur sinn barrachd airgid cuideachd bhith Urras Co-ionnanachd Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd airson cuideachadh a thoirt le grunnan chur-seachdan taobh a-staigh sgire na Comhairle. ’S e eòin phroiseact a tha romhainn fhathast còmhradh susbainteach a chumail le comhairlean iondail eile far a bheil obair nam Fèisean a’ dol air adhart an-dràsta airson iarradh orra leudachadh a dhèanamh air an taic a tha a’ toirt dha na Fèisean.


Bu mhath leam taing shònraichte a thoirt dhan luchd-taic saor-thoileach air fad ann an iomadach coimhearsnachd air feadh na dòthcha a tha ag obair gu sguir do mhaith iomairt nam Fèisean. Chan e ‘s gu bheil iad direach a’ ruith na Fèise aca fhèin, ach feumaídh iad barrachd ùine a chur seachadh a’ tuigseinn agus a’ coileanadh laghan is riaghalta leàra agus a’ togail airgid. Mar bhuidheann, ’s e fear de na priomh amasan againn taic a thoirt do ar luchd-obrach saor-thoileach, agus mar sin shimplich sinn air sgéama-thabartasan am bliadhna. Chan eil na h-uiread de phàilear na lùb agus chan eil achan chean-làr a-nise airson iarratasan a chur a-steach. Tha sinn cuideachd air soilleireachadh a dhèanamh air ar Poileasaidhean Cùraim Chloinne.

Bu mhath leam taing shònraichte a thoirt dhan luchd-taic saor-thoileach air fad ann an iomadach coimhearsnachd air feadh na dòthcha a tha ag obair gu sguir do mhaith iomairt nam Fèisean. Chan e ‘s gu bheil iad direach a’ ruith na Fèise aca fhèin, ach feumaídh iad barrachd ùine a chur seachadh a’ tuigseinn agus a’ coileanadh laghan is riaghalta leàra agus a’ togail airgid. Mar bhuidheann, ’s e fear de na priomh amasan againn taic a thoirt dhan luchd-obrach saor-thoileach, agus mar sin shimplich sinn air sgéama-thabartasan am bliadhna. Chan eil na h-uiread de phàilear na lùb agus chan eil achan chean-làr a-nise airson iarratasan a chur a-steach. Tha sinn cuideachd air soilleireachadh a dhèanamh air ar Poileasaidhean Cùraim Chloinne.

Bu mhath leam taing shònraichte a thoirt dhan luchd-taic saor-thoileach air fad ann an iomadach coimhearsnachd air feadh na dòthcha a tha ag obair gu sguir do mhaith iomairt nam Fèisean. Chan e ‘s gu bheil iad direach a’ ruith na Fèise aca fhèin, ach feumaídh iad barrachd ùine a chur seachadh a’ tuigseinn agus a’ coileanadh laghan is riaghalta leàra agus a’ togail airgid. Mar bhuidheann, ’s e fear de na priomh amasan againn taic a thoirt dhan luchd-obrach saor-thoileach, agus mar sin shimplich sinn air sgéama-thabartasan am bliadhna. Chan eil na h-uiread de phàilear na lùb agus chan eil achan chean-làr a-nise airson iarratasan a chur a-steach. Tha sinn cuideachd air soilleireachadh a dhèanamh air ar Poileasaidhean Cùraim Chloinne.

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal gu mòr an comain nam buidhean an a tha a’ toirt airgid dhùinn agus bu mhath leam tainm shònraichte a thoirt do Chomhairle Ealan na h-Alba airson taic leantainneach a chumail dhuinn. Cuideachd, feumaídh mi taing a thoirt dhan fheadhann eile a tha gar maoineachadh: Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd ‘s nan Eilean tro HI-Arts.
Tha maoineachadh pròiseactan 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. Tha sinn cuideachd a’ feuchainn ri leasachaidhean a mhaoineachadh ann am Fèisean ionadail agus tha sinn air Urras Leasachaidh nam Fèisean a chur air bhonn. Bu chòir seo taic tòisichd a thoirt do pròiseactan ùra agus, ma ghabhas a dhèanamh idir, barrachd airgid a thàladh dhan chùis.

Tha sinn a’ cur fàilte chridheil air Bòrd na Gàidhlig, agus tha sinn lèin dochas gum bi ealain is cultar nam prìomhachasan aig a’ Bhòrd agus aig Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig. Tha sinn cuideachd a’ moladh dicheall Riaghaltais na h-Alba a thaobh Bile na Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh, agus nì sinn cinn teach gum bi iomairt nam Fèisean air a riodhachadh agus air a shoilleireachadh mar bu chòir fhads a tha an deasbad a’ leantainn.

Mu dheireadh, bu mhath leam taing a thoirt do luchd-obrach na buidhne a tha ag obair gu cùramach agus gu dicheallach do Fhèisean nan Gàidheal. Cha bhiodh a’ bhuidheann cho soirbheachail às an aonais. Tha agus bi Fèisean nan Gàidheal an urra ri ar buill. ’S e ar prìomh amas taic a thoirt dha na Fèisean, agus mas urrainn duinn cuideachadh no taic sam bith a thoirt seachad, bhitheamaid toilichte sin a dhèanamh.

Iain MacDhòmhnaill
Cathraiche Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Sultain 2003
It has once again been a pleasure to have served as Chairman of Fèisean nan Gàidheal over the past year, and to present Fèisean nan Gàidheal's 2003 Annual Report, in a year when the Fèis movement has continued to grow and develop. Fèisean have taken place in communities the length and breadth of Scotland, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal can now rightfully claim to be a national organisation.

Last year saw a major review by the Scottish Arts Council of its core funded organisations, and I am very pleased to say that Fèisean nan Gàidheal came through that process with a significant increase in funding. We were also delighted to receive several major SAC lottery funding awards, to enable some of our major development plans to be realised. With that funding, we have been able to offer each Fèis a computer system and an e-mail address under the 'feisean.org' domain name. This should help communication problems highlighted in the Stuart Brownlee report on the Fèis Support Workers. We have also been able to offer an integrated training programme for Fèis tutors and organisers, which includes a range of Gaelic language courses, and courses dealing with subject specific issues. This will be ongoing for a further 2 years. We were also able to expand our over-subscribed Musical Instrument Bank, with the purchase of new Clàrsaich, Accordions and Fiddles. Lastly, we were able to employ Meanbh-Chuileag, who toured up and down Scotland, offering Gaelic-medium, and Gaelic-related, theatre and music workshops to schools, Sradagan groups and Fèisean.

We also managed to secure additional funds from The Highland Council’s Equalisation Fund, to help a range of activities within the Council area. One task ahead is to begin discussions in earnest with the other local authorities in whose areas we work, and try and get them to build on their support of the Fèisean.

On the staffing front, Jennifer Marshall left us in June 2002 to take up a post in Japan, and was replaced by Christine MacIntyre. More recently, Rachel Walker has left her post as Fèis Support Worker to take up a new full-time post at Lochaber College. Ingrid Henderson has been appointed to a new full-time post created in Lochaber as a Fèis Development Officer. These changes notwithstanding, the organisation has continued to offer assistance to the Fèisean in many and varied ways.

I would like to pay particular 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. That effort is not simply confined to running the local Fèis but more and more time has to be spent understanding and complying with new legislation and regulations, or fund-raising. As an organisation one of our key roles is to support the volunteers, and with this in mind we streamlined our grants scheme this year, so that there is less paperwork and only one deadline for applications, and introduced clearer child protection procedures.

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. We have put in place a new process for electing Board members, and we very much hope that this will result in many more Fèisean being involved in the running of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with new members joining the Board on a more regular basis.

We are 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 our thanks to our other two main funders, The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

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. We are also trying to accommodate developments in local Fèisean, and have established a Fèis Development Fund. This should assist new projects to get off the ground, and where possible, lever more money in.

We welcome the establishment of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and hope that it will place arts and culture at the forefront of its work, and in its National Plan for Gaelic. We welcome too, the
commitment from the Scottish Executive to a Gaelic Language Bill, and will ensure that the interests of the Fèis movement are highlighted during the consultation period.

Finally I would like to thank the staff of the organisation whose dedication and commitment to the organisation is one of the key factors in our success. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is, and will remain, a membership-led and membership-run organisation, whose primary aim is to support the Fèisean. Members should always get in touch if they need support or advice.

John MacDonald
Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chairman
September 2003
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<td><strong>Total number of participants</strong></td>
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<td>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</td>
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<td>North Lanarkshire</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Inverclyde, Renfrewshire &amp;</td>
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<td>East Renfrewshire partnership</td>
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</table>
2 STAFFING

In line with the bringing onstream of various key projects, there have been a number of changes and additions to Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff in 2002-03. Anne Willoughby’s previous role as part-time administrator was re-designated to a Finance & Administrative Officer on a full-time basis and at a higher level. This reflects her increased workload connected, in particular, with the finances of the organisation, and the greater responsibility that this entails.

The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education pilot project came on stream in 2002-03, with a total of 2 full-time and 2 part-time posts created, based in the Gracemount Youth Centre in Edinburgh. Màiri Kidd and Douglas Beck took on the full-time roles of writers and actors, whilst Donald Uilleam Stewart worked 0.5 FTE as a performer. Their staff compliment was completed by Kathleen MacLeod who was appointed as administrator for the project on a 0.3 FTE basis.

The diagram below illustrates the staffing structure in 2002-03 within Fèisean nan Gàidheal:

In line with Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s commitment to Child Protection, the services of Sandy Gray were engaged on a 1 day a week basis to act as "Collator" for the organisation. Sandy retired as Inspector from Northern Constabulary in 2003 after 30 years of service, and his duties with Fèisean nan Gàidheal include sending out and collection of Disclosure forms, and providing an assessment of the person’s suitability or otherwise to work with young people.

Also 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 audited financial statement for 2002-03, has been prepared by Mann, Judd & Gordon, who were appointed as auditors at last year’s AGM, and the Profit & Loss Account, and Balance Sheet, form part of this Annual Report.

In the year 2002-03 Fèisean nan Gàidheal saw a huge increase in the turnover of the organisation, as a number of successful project applications came onstream. Although these offer a great deal in terms of opportunities for the Fèis movement, it also presents new challenges, particularly for the Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff in terms of project and financial management. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is extremely grateful to all the core and project funding partner organisations, and their staff, for their ongoing support and belief in the Fèis movement across Scotland.

The project finances are described in two distinct areas; Core Funding and Development and Project Funds.

3.2 Core Funding

Core funding is granted on the basis that it supports the costs (wages, employers contributions and expenses) of the core staff (Director, Development Officer and Administrator), Fèisean insurance, office rental, electricity, post, telephone, fax etc and key elements of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan such as the Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Core funding is also used to pay out grants for Main Fèisean. In 2002-03, this was set at 20% of eligible expenditure, with those based in the Highland Council area entitled to an additional 12.5%.

**Scottish Arts Council - Combined Arts** £84,000
**Scottish Arts Council - National Cultural Strategy Funds** £25,000
**Highland Council** £33,150
**Highlands and Islands Enterprise through HI~Arts** £25,000

Total ’core’ funding **£167,150**

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 2002-03 these were as follows:

**Year-round Fèis Activity** - Grants of up to 30% of eligible costs for Fèisean to run regular classes.
Partner Funders were Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig and the Scottish Arts Council Music Department.

**Fèis Support Workers** - To employ and sustain four regionally based workers for 22.5 hrs per week.
Partner Funders were The Carnegie (UK) Trust, The Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council.

**Fèis Support Workers Study** - To undertake an interim study to assess the first two year of the Fèis Support Workers programme.
Partner Funders were Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Arts Council.

**Training Development Officer and TMTTN Co-ordinator** - For the employment of a full time worker.
Partner Funders were Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Arts Council.

**Training Programme** – For the delivery of Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s programme of training for Staff, Fèis Organisers, Fèis Tutors and Fèis Participants.
Partner Funders were the **Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund**, **The European Social Fund**, **The Highland Council**, **various Local Enterprise Companies** and **Comunn na Gàidhlig**.

**Musical Instrument Bank** - For the purchase of new instruments including Clàrsaich, Fiddles and Accordions to boost the Fèisean nan Gàidheal instrument bank. 
Partner Funders were the **Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund** and **Highlands & Islands Enterprise**.

**Ceòl nam Fèis Concerts** – For the staging of four regionally based Ceòl nam Fèis concerts in spring 2002. 
Partner Funders were **Comunn na Gàidhlig**, **the Scottish Arts Council Music Department**, **Argyll & Islands Enterprise**, **Western Isles Enterprise**, **Ross and Cromarty Enterprise**, **Lochaber Enterprise**, **The Highland Council**, **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**, **East Dunbartonshire Council** and **City of Aberdeen Council**.

**Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education 1 year pilot project** - Funding towards the establishment of a full-time Gaelic medium theatre-in-education company performing to over 4,000 Scottish young people in 2002-03. 
Partner Funders were the **Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund**, **Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd** and **Tosg** (in-kind drama development support).

### 3.4 SAC National Lottery Funding

The Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund continues to be a major and vital source of developmental funding for both Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the wider Fèis movement. Over the last twelve months a number of lottery funded projects have come onstream, and a number of new ones have been given approval. A summary of these are as follows:

- £94,000 towards a total project cost of £345,000 over three years, to develop Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Training Development Plan.
- £70,000 towards a total project cost of £97,000 over one year, to develop a full-time Gaelic-medium theatre-in-education company initially on a one year pilot basis.
- £66,713 towards a total project cost of £95,300 to purchase ICT and audio-visual equipment for the Fèis movement.
- £27,801 towards a total project cost of £37,500 to purchase new instruments for the Fèisean nan Gàidheal instrument bank.

Fèis Latharna based in and around Oban, are currently in year 2 of a joint initiative with Fèis Mhuile, Isle of Mull, after being awarded £48,200 towards the cost of a three-year programme of Gaelic music, song and dance tuition activities totalling £63,000.

Other Fèisean, including Fèis Chataibh and Fèis Rois has successfully accessed Scottish Arts Council Lottery Funds to establish and develop their successful summer cèilidh trail programmes in the last few years.
The Board of Directors met four times from 20 May, 6 September and 10 December 2002, and 18 February 2003. The figures in brackets next to each member indicate actual attendance, compared to possible.

At the AGM, held in Edinburgh on Friday 6 September 2002, it was agreed to appoint a youth representative on an annual basis. For the year 2002-03 John Joe MacNeil of Fèis Bharraigh was appointed.

It was also agreed at the AGM that a review would be undertaken of the Memorandum and Articles of Association that govern the operations of the organisation. With this in mind, it was agreed that no members of the board would step down on this occasion until a new system of board membership and rotation had been devised and agreed by the membership. This would be accompanied by a wholesale review of the co-opted and observer status of other individuals and organisations.

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 when particularly appropriate.

### BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2002-03

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Rita Hunter</td>
<td>Company Secretary (Fèis Rois)</td>
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<td>Nanac Skivington</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>David Boag</td>
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5 CORE ACTIVITIES

5.1 Financial and Project Management

The staff of Fèisean nan Gàidheal deal with a wide range of core and project activities. Over the years the organisation has grown, and with that comes greater responsibilities in terms of financial and project management.

With every grant, either core or project, comes a great deal of administration work, including keeping accounts, setting and achieving agreed targets, collecting feedback and reporting to funders. A great deal of ‘core’ staff time is spent dealing with these issues and this is only proper as the majority of the money we handle is from the public purse.

5.2 Project Development

As well as dealing with the established ‘core’ and ‘project’ activities, the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Staff, which includes the Development Officer, the Fèis Support Workers and now the Lochaber Development Officer, are constantly working to develop new projects that will be of benefit to member Fèisean.

The nature of the funding available to Fèisean nan Gàidheal usually requires that any new project is thoroughly researched before a submission is made. From the initial idea the Development team will have to assess what funding is available and then match this up to the project. In most cases with public funds, this will require a degree of proof that there is ‘public benefit’ to be gained from the project. This is usually demonstrated in the form of survey results and/or letters of support from stakeholders, such as Local Authority Officers or other organisations involved in the field.

Along with this, a budget detailing all expenditure and sources of income will have to be drawn up and letters of support obtained.

Although Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been successful in obtaining project development funds in recent years, not every project comes to fruition. In some cases, a great deal of time and effort can be put into presenting a case for funding that ultimately is unsuccessful for one reason or another.

5.3 Fèis Support Workers

In addition to the office based staff, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has a team of Fèis Support Workers who are based geographically throughout the country. Until this year, these workers had been regarded as project staff, but are now fully integrated as a core component of the organisation.

Fèis Support Workers work closely with the Fèisean in their own areas, and are available to provide developmental support, or to provide limited ‘hands-on’ help when required.

5.4 Grant Scheme for Main Fèisean

Fèisean nan Gàidheal granted £52,181 to 26 main Fèisean in 2002-03 - an average of £2007 per Fèis - utilising part of our allocation from the Scottish Arts Council Strategic Development Department, National Cultural Strategy top-up and Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council. A total of 2,455 individual participants took part, tutored and supervised by approximately 400 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 £303,340 or an average of £11,660 per Fèis. Communities themselves raised more than £150,000 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.

All applications for funding are accompanied by the Fèisean agreeing to implement their
5.5 Grants Scheme for Year-round Fèis Activities

During 2002-03 Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to fund 2,535 workshop sessions involving 19 Fèisean, approximately 200 tutors and 1,713 individual participants. Grants totalling £25,093 were committed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal with additional project support from the Scottish Arts Council Music Department and Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig.

5.6 Annualised Hours

A report into the first two years the Fèis Support Workers posts conducted by Stuart Brownlee, on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, highlighted that member Fèisean wanted workers to be available to them at the local level. Stuart Brownlee recommended a system of ‘Annualised Hours’ whereby member Fèisean should be given the opportunity to bid in to Fèisean nan Gàidheal for money, to support locally based workers for a specified number of hours per year. This it was felt would further ease potential problems that could have occurred as a result of ‘volunteer burnout.’

As a result of extra funding received, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been able to assign a sum of money from which Fèisean can request annualised hours as of 1 April 2003. It is envisaged that this will be incorporated into the core activity of the organisation over the next three years, if the feedback and evaluation is favourable.

5.7 Annual General Meeting and Conference

The 2002 AGM and Conference were held at the Holiday Inn, Edinburgh, on 6 and 7 September 2002. The event offers Fèis organisers and supporters from all over Scotland, their only opportunity to get together. This was the first time that the Annual Gathering had taken place outwith the Highlands and Islands area, and reflects the fact that the Fèis movement is present in communities throughout Scotland.

The Friday afternoon began with a meeting of the Board of Directors and then a presentation by consultant Stuart Brownlee on his Interim Assessment of the first two years of the Fèis Support Workers programme. This was followed by a workshop session, where Fèis representatives were able to discuss the findings in more depth. This led on to the formal Annual General Meeting with a presentation by Dr Martin MacIntyre of Tobar an Dualchais thereafter.

Later in the evening there was the annual dinner, with superb entertainment from youngsters from Fèis Dhùn Eideann, The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education company, and accordionist Archie MacFarlane and his Band.

The Saturday morning included workshop sessions on Child Protection by John Harris from the CRBS and the responsibilities of Board and Committee members, led by Barclay Price of Arts & Business, finishing off at lunchtime.

5.8 Training

The provision of training for Fèisean nan Gàidheal Staff, Fèis Organisers, Fèis Tutors and Fèis Participants is a core part of the organisation’s work. However, with the appointment of a dedicated Training Officer, the funding granted towards the development of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Plan, and the work of the partnership work of the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN), this has gathered a great deal of momentum over the last twelve months. A full summary of this is contained in the Projects section of this report.

5.9 Publishing

Sales of the Ceòl nam Fèis books - Volume 1 and 2 have been good over the last twelve months. A reprint of Volume 1 was undertaken in 2002-03 with new, improved, binding incorporated.
5.10 Disclosure Checking

As part of Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s continued commitment to implementing its Child Protection Policy, the organisation for the first time this year was able to offer member Fèisean access to Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) checks. These checks further strengthen the current policy in that for the first time Fèisean are able to officially check somebody’s criminal background and therefore assess their suitability to be working with young people.

As part of the process, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been officially registered with the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS) which undertakes the SCRO or ‘Disclosure’ checks on behalf of the voluntary sector in Scotland. The cost of the check at £13.60 per time is being covered by the Scottish Executive for volunteers, but for paid employees, including Fèis tutors and supervisors, Fèisean nan Gàidheal is covering this cost.

It is estimated that nearly 400 paid staff will have to go through the system in the first two years of the scheme at a cost of over £5,000 to Fèisean nan Gàidheal. In addition, to undertake the workload, an ex-police inspector, Sandy Gray has been appointed to our Portree office. He will manage the system on our behalf and is registered with the CRBS as Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s ‘Collator.’

To fulfil our obligations under the Secure Handling of Information Act, we have developed a system whereby only the result of a disclosure is kept on file in the form of ‘suitable’ or ‘unsuitable.’ The actual disclosure will be destroyed and disposed off in a secure manner as soon as this assessment has been made. This information will be kept by Fèisean nan Gàidheal for a maximum of two years, after which time a new disclosure will be raised and reassessed.

In this way, we aim to keep the information as confidential and as up-to-date as possible within a reasonable cost framework.

5.11 www.feisean.org

As part of its core operations, Fèisean nan Gàidheal maintains the site at www.feisean.org which is packed full of information and news about every member Fèis. This continues to draw a significant number of hits per day from interested parties throughout the world. The site also acts as a useful hub for those Fèisean which have their own site, and is linked to many of the Gaelic and Scottish cultural web-sites.

As part of an ICT project due to come onstream in summer 2003, a comprehensive review of the site and its content is planned. Included will be the provision of software that will allow individual Fèisean to update their own section of the site from their own computer. It is also planned to incorporate a facility that will allow the site to be read in Gaelic or English, and a new children’s page will be added.

5.12 Advocacy

Staff and Directors of Fèisean nan Gàidheal are regularly involved in promoting the Fèis movement to a wide range of organisations, including local and national politicians, local and national government, funding agencies and other interested parties such as private business.
6  MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

6.1 Introduction

In addition to the core services outlined in section 5, Fèisean nan Gàidheal offers a number of other services that are available to paid up members of the organisation.

6.2 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. A substantial amount of work has been undertaken on this over the last 12 months, providing Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and the Fèis movement generally, with one of the most comprehensive database of tutors in Scotland.

6.3 Faileas - Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Newsletter

Three issues of Faileas were circulated in 2002-03. 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 as a PDF file.

6.4 Information

Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff regularly send out information leaflets and other publications sent to the main office, with details of meetings, conferences, events and news from other organisations. This is done both by post and e-mail on a regular basis.

6.5 Funding opportunities

Including with this regular dissemination of information, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has kept in touch with developments in funding over the past twelve months, and passed on relevant information to its members.

For example, 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 central bank.

6.6 Musical Instrument Bank

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal instrument bank is still in very heavy demand from Fèisean and individuals alike, keen to make use of the opportunity to try out an instrument before they commit to the full cost. However, the award of £27,801 from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery, towards the purchase of £37,500 of new Clàrsach, hard clàrsach cases, accordions and fiddles, should help to ease the burden on the bank. An application has was made to Highlands & Islands Enterprise for the match funding.

6.7 Insurance

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently insured by the Ansvar insurance company and cover is available to all paid up members of the association. As well as cover for normal Fèis activities and instruments, the policy provides cover for the company and employees from eventualities such as personal injury. This continues to be a fantastic saving for member Fèisean, affording them, and their equipment, an excellent level of protection.

6.8 Gaelic resource book

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic resource booklet Gàidhlig do Luchd-tòiseachaidh continues to be of great use to Fèisean. The accompanying CD was produced during 2001-02 and was launched as part of Fèis Chille Mhòraig in Beauly during September 2002. The Fèis committee had identified the production of such a tool as a potentially valuable aid as part of their Gaelic Development Plan.
7 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS 2002-03

7.1 Regional Ceòl nam Fèis Concerts Project

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 summary of each of the concerts is as follows:

**Oban, 12 April 2003, organised by Jennifer Marshall and held at the Corran Halls**
*Musical Director - Maggie MacInnes*

This event attracted 43 participants from all over the Argyll, Islands and Glasgow area, with an audience of 192. Financial assistance for this event was granted by Argyll & the Islands Enterprise and East Dunbartonshire Council. Assistance was also provided by Argyll and Bute Council, who hosted a pre-concert reception for local Fèis organisers and supporters. The event was recorded and subsequently broadcast on local radio station Oban FM.

**Dingwall, 19 April 2003, organised by Rachel Walker and held at the Town Hall**
*Musical Director - Kathleen Boyle*

This event drew 88 young people together from all over the North Highlands and Edinburgh areas. A capacity audience of over 314 witnessed an excellent evening of top class traditional Gaelic music, song and dance. Assistance was granted by Ross and Cromarty Enterprise, Inverness and Nairn Enterprise and the Ross and Cromarty area of the Highland Council who hosted a pre-concert reception.

**Fort William, 20 April 2003, organised by Ingrid Henderson and held at the Nevis Centre**
*Musical Director - Phil Cunningham MBE*

The venue at An Aird in Fort William provided a huge space for this the third of four concerts, drawing young people from as far afield as Acharacle and Aberdeen. In all 102 young people took part, with an audience of 436 in the hall. Again, a top class programme of local and not so local talent was delivered by the participants. Assistance was granted by Lochaber Enterprise, Aberdeen City Council and the Highland Council Skye and Lochalsh and Lochaber areas.

**Benbecula, 3 May 2003, organised by Fiona MacInnes and held at Sgoil Lionacleit**
*Musical Director - Brian O hEadhra*

The fourth and final concert was held in the school gymnasium at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula. In terms of logistics this proved to be the most difficult, having converted the hall into a concert venue by laying a protective floor covering, installing a stage and rigging a PA and lights. However, an audience of 217 and a cast of 64 made for an excellent evening, notable for the quality of the singing and drama on offer. Financial assistance was provided by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Western Isles Enterprise.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal would also like to record their thanks to the Scottish Arts Council Music Department, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig, The Performing Rights Society and Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhirnis who contributed to the concert series.

7.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Development Plan Project

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Development Plan has been extremely active over the last year, with further events planned over the coming twelve months. The ambitious three-year plan, aims to provide training for Fèisean nan Gàidheal Staff, Fèis Organisers, Tutors and Participants was granted money from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund. During the course of the year, further partnership grants have been secured for specific projects. Details of the training undertaken in the year up to March 2003 are as follows:

- 13 June 2002, Staff Training Day held at An Tuireann, Skye.
- 7 September 2002, Disclosure and Roles and Responsibilities of Boards and Committees at the Annual Conference, Edinburgh
- October to December 2002, Fèis Committee Training in Disclosure and Roles and Responsibilities of Boards and Committees, undertaken at 23 locations throughout Scotland.
- September 2002 to June 2003, 8 students undertaking the Cùrsa Inntrigidh - Access to Gaelic Course delivered from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye.
14 and 15 February 2003, 15 young people took part in a Teenage Groupwork Workshop in Brora, Sutherland.
19 February 2003, Staff Training Day held at the Palace Hotel, Inverness.
February and March 2003, Fèis Support Worker Christine MacIntyre undertook a Child Care First Aid course in Lochgilphead.
21 to 23 February 2003, 28 Students took part in Level 1 and Level 2 Tutor Training held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye.
1 and 2 March 2003, Techniques for Tutors training delivered in Benbecula.
22 March 2003, Techniques for Tutors training delivered in Stornoway.

Iona MacDonald is employed as the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Officer on a part-time basis, combining this with her role as co-ordinator of the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN).

The TMTTN is led by a steering group made up of a number of groups involved in the delivery of traditional music classes in Scotland, and seeks to develop strategies for the delivery of tutor training.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been extremely active over the last number of years in developing its Level 1 and Level 2 Tutor Training course, and the knowledge and expertise built up over the years has been an invaluable asset to the work of the TMTTN.

7.3 Instrument Bank Funding Project

As part of its services to members, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has an instrument bank which Fèisean can draw on at the time of their event and let young people try out an instrument before they commit to buying one of their own. When there are no Fèisean taking place, the instruments are hired out on an individual basis to young people throughout Scotland.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was successful in 2002-03 in securing additional money from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund to purchase a range of new instruments to add to the bank. This included additions to those instruments traditionally in high demand including clàrsaich and accordions. Additionally the grant allowed for the purchase of custom built hard flight cases for the clàrsaich to protect the valuable instruments on their long journeys from Fèis to Fèis across Scotland.

7.4 The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre Company Project

The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education Company project officially commenced in July 2002 for a one year pilot that would test the demand for Gaelic medium theatre-in-education in Scotland. The group of three - Màiri Kidd, Douglas Beck and DW Stewart - were all tutors for Fèis Dhùn Eideann who had the excellent idea of developing a group that could go into schools in Edinburgh to promote the work of the Fèis and encourage new participants to come along. This was packaged into a theatre-in-education piece which proved to be highly successful. A Gaelic-medium version was delivered initially to the Gaelic medium school at Tollcross Primary School, Edinburgh and soon the news of their work spread. Soon schools and local authorities from across Scotland were requesting that the group come to their area.

As a result of this initial wave of interest, the group approached Fèisean nan Gàidheal looking for the support to roll this out across Scotland on a full-time basis. An initial application to the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund was unsuccessful, but a second more comprehensive application was successful. This enabled the group, under the guidance of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, to commence work initially on a one year pilot basis. This would allow greater work to be done in the assessment of the possible demand for this type of work.

Additional support was provided by the Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd and the Tosg theatre company who offered professional ‘in-kind’ drama development input.

The aims of the group over the course of the initial 12 months are ambitious, with a target of 4,000 Scottish young people. This will be made up of visits to Gaelic and English classes and schools, Fèisean, Sradagan and other informal education groups. Included in their plans are visits to inner city schools in Glasgow and Edinburgh, to some of the
smallest and remotest schools in Scotland on the islands of Eigg and Rhum. Additionally they have undertaken to develop their work for use with special needs children.

The project is due to finish in July 2003, but the indications so far from the feedback received are that the group has been very well received indeed. If, as suspected, there is an indication of sufficient demand, it is planned to seek three year funding for the group to carry on in the longer term.

7.5 Information and Communication Technology Project (ICT)

Over many years, one of the greatest weaknesses identified within the structure of the Fèis movement has been the difficulty of communication. The causes of this are varied and often unique but the major causes can be reduced down to a few key difficulties:

- The wide spread geography of the movement can make communication physically difficult and heighten feelings of isolation.
- Working in the main with volunteers means that their availability to communicate is dictated by a wide range of factors such as their full time work and family life.

Therefore, it was decided to embark on an ambitious project to seek funding to improve the communication across the Fèis movement, utilising available e-mail and internet technologies. However, from surveys conducted amongst members it was clear that not everyone had access to these facilities or had the necessary skills to use them. Therefore, based on the equipment needs identified, an application for funding to buy a range of equipment for Fèisean was made to the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund, with match funding sought from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. This application was ultimately successful, and it is hoped that this equipment will be bought and distributed to members over the summer months.

In addition to this, the project sought funding for a range of ICT equipment for the Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff, including new computing, audio-visual and video-conferencing facilities. Until now, the staff had been working with equipment that was out of date, falling well short of the specifications expected by modern software.

Key to this project is the link with the training programme, and over 2003-04 it is hoped to offer all Fèis organisers the opportunity to develop their computing skills, in the name of both personal and Fèis development. With the range of software provided with the equipment, it is hoped that a great deal of the work involved in running a Fèis at community level, such as desktop publishing, accounts and advertising, can be more effectively dealt with in the future.

7.6 Fèis Support Workers Interim Assessment Project

Over summer 2002, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with support from the Scottish Arts Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, engaged the services of independent consultant Stuart Brownlee, to conduct an assessment of the first two years of the Fèis Support Workers project. His findings, which were based on surveys conducted with Fèis contacts and other stakeholders, were delivered at the Annual Conference in Edinburgh on 5 September 2002.

The assessment concluded that in overall terms the Fèis Support Workers programme had been successful in breaking through the glass-ceiling that had been created due to pressures on volunteer’s time. However, there were some areas identified that could be improved on. The key recommendations of the report were as follows:

- A clear vision for the Support Worker Programme needs to be agreed, communicated and developed between all stakeholders.
- A review of the nature and levels of ‘support work’ needs to be carried out to inform the future structure of the Fèis Support Workers Programming, recognising local and network aspirations, needs and demands.
- A commitment needs to be given to core funding of the Support Workers Programme, and the appropriate number of full time and/or part time workers needs to be established and actioned.
- More robust communication systems need to be established across the network to enable collaborative working and ease of contact. While ICT will have a significant
role to play in this, setting proper protocols, standards and procedures are equally
important and need to be revisited as a matter of urgency.
• A review/rationalisation of the operations of the existing Fèisean, coinciding with the
production of a Fèis best practice handbook, providing checklists, templates,
practical advice and documenting minimum acceptable standards.
8 ADVOCACY and COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

8.1 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. Sylvia Dow, the SAC Head of Education, was Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Lead Officer in 2002-03, our main contact within SAC, and dealt with our annual applications and review meetings.

8.2 Local Authorities

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to work in close partnership with members and staff of a wide range of Local Authorities; the Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Argyll and Bute Council, Glasgow City Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Edinburgh City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, North Lanarkshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, Inverclyde Council, Renfrewshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council. Their help, either direct or in-kind, is of vital importance to the continued success and growth of the Fèis movement in Scotland.

8.3 Formal Education

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to have good relationships with the formal education sector, both at the national and local levels. Over the last twelve months this has been strengthened in particular through the partnership created by the TMTTN Formal Accreditation Working Group. Members of this group include Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Rois, Strathclyde University, the RSAMD and the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School. In recent times, the work of this group has reached out to a wider group including the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), Heads of Instrumental Training (HITS) and the Schools Inspectorate.

In addition, individual Fèisean have been very active in schools visits over the last twelve months, primarily to promote their event with the assistance of the team of Fèis Support Workers. Fèis Rois have been particularly active in this regard through their education outreach programme, and the national work they are undertaking on behalf of the Scottish Arts Council to deliver their Traditional Musicians in Schools scheme.

Links with formal education has been further strengthened by the excellent work of Meanbh-Chuileag, who have delivered performances of their material across Scotland, from large inner-city schools to the islands of Eigg and Rhum. This has met with excellent feedback from both pupils and teachers alike, and is certainly going a long way to raise the profile of Fèisean in Scotland.

Links have also continued with a wide range of primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities throughout Scotland and Fèisean nan Gàidheal has hosted a number of work placements over the last 12 months.

8.4 HI~ARTS

HI~Arts is represented on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board, with either Caroline MacLeod or Robert Livingston attending regularly as observers.

8.5 The Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Traditional Arts - START

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has regularly been represented at these meetings over the last twelve months. As well as the gatherings, there is a healthy e-mail group which has resulted in a few interesting debates.

8.6 An Drochaid - the Skye and Lochalsh Traditional Music Project

As well as managing and hosting the project on behalf of Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise, Arthur Cormack attends the project’s steering group as an observer.
8.7 InvernessHighland2008

Fèisean nan Gàidheal contributed a great deal to the support to the ultimately unsuccessful bid by Inverness and the Highlands to become European Capital of Culture in 2008, with David Boag attending various meetings, both to discuss the bid, provide public support, and to ensure the place of Gaelic within the bid.

Despite its failure, the Fèis movement was described by the judging panel as ‘inspiring’, and the Scottish Executive announced that 2006 would be designated as the ‘Scottish Year of Highland Culture’. This date was later revised to 2007, to accommodate the proposed re-developments at Eden Court Theatre.

8.8 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. Over and above that, 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.

8.9 National Mòd 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, and the host for the Gold Medal Final competitions, both broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.

8.10 Bòrd na Gàidhlig

This last year has seen the establishment, by the Scottish Executive, of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic Development Agency. This was one of the key recommendations that came out of the MAGOG report A Fresh Start for Gaelic to which Fèisean nan Gàidheal was a contributor.

The Board is made up of six members, and although it is still very early days in the development of the Bòrd, it is hopefully the first step on the road to a Gaelic Language Act which Fèisean nan Gàidheal has long supported.

8.11 Pròiseact nan Ealan

Pròiseact nan Ealan continues to have observer status at Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board meetings, with either Malcolm MacLean or Marisa MacDonald being in attendance. Over and above this, 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.
This section gives a brief summary of the activities of member Fèisean over the year 2002-03. This is by no means all of the activity, but is designed simply to give a flavour. The report is presented under the heading of the Fèis Support Worker for that particular group of Fèisean.

9.1 Fèis Support Worker - Ingrid Henderson

FÈIS AN EARRAICH, Skye and Lochalsh
This year’s main Fèis took place in Portree, Skye, 1-5 April 2002, with 122 young people taking part. This represented a significant rise in numbers from the previous years, with an almost equal split between primary and secondary aged participants. The Fèis committee decided not to run their Fèis nan Deugairean this year, but still managed to attract lots of teenagers which many Fèisean find to be a real challenge. The week was rounded off with a sell-out concert at the Aros Centre in Portree, with approximately 40 unfortunate souls unable to get in. Participants from Fèis an Eraraich made the trip to visit their exchange partners at the Armagh Pipers club in June, and it is hoped that they will make the return visit for Fèis 2003.

FÈIS LOCHABAIR, Lochaber
The main Fèis took place in Lochaber High School, 1-5 April 2002 with a total of 91 young people taking part in the activities. As always, the highly organised committee did a great job in ensuring that the week went well. Tutors in particular were delighted to get their daily fix of home-made soup, delivered courtesy of Allan Henderson senior. Highlights of the week included the tutors’ concert at the Milton Hotel on the Thursday night and the final concert, which again drew a large supportive audience. Throughout the year the Fèis continued with its highly successful programme of year-round classes, and actively pursued the idea of developing a summer cèilidh trail, similar to that operated by Fèis Rois. They also looked into the idea of organising more ‘specialised’ weekend workshops for participants at a more advanced level.

FÈIS EIGE, Island of Eigg
The Fèis took place on the island on the weekend of 12-14 July 2002, with 25 participants taking part. In addition, with the support of a grant from Awards for All, the Fèis ran a year-round programme of classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. This attracted some 32 individuals to take part, which in terms of the available local population must come close to a world record! As well as funding to bring tutors to the island, the money assists children on the mainland attending high school, to take part in other classes run by Fèis Lochabair and Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan.

FÈIS NAN GARBH CHRÌOCHAN, West Lochaber
The main Fèis took place in and around the village of Acharacle, 22-26 July 2002, attracting exactly 100 participants. As well as this, the Fèis operates an extensive follow-on programme, including regular sessions in Acharacle, Morar and Arisaig primary schools. In all some 162 individuals took part in activities, ensuring that the area’s strong Gaelic music, song and dance tradition will be carried on by future generations. The Fèis was also very active in seeking funds to employ a part-time, locally based administrator to deal with the main Fèis and the extensive follow-on programme. The proposal, which was submitted to various local funding agencies, was drawn up by Ingrid Henderson in consultation with the committee.

FÈIS OBAR DHEATHAIN, Aberdeen
The main Fèis took place in Aberdeen Grammar School over the February weekend 15-17 February 2003. A total of 78 young people took part, many of whom attend the Gaelic unit at Gilcomstoun Primary School. As well as a wide range of subjects for the over eights, the younger participants had their own Fèis nan Og. A very successful event, with a good deal of support from the committee. In addition to the main Fèis, the committee held a Fèis day in September 2002, which drew a lot of interest locally. Ingrid Henderson visited the committee on a number of occasions over the year, helping them draw up plans for an Awards for All application, ways to increase the amount and profile of Gaelic at the Fèis and ways to promote the Fèis in local schools.
FÈIS SPÈ, Speyside
This year’s Fèis Spè took place 14-18 October 2002 at the Loch Insh Watersports Centre with a total of 71 young people taking part in a wide range of Gaelic music, song and dance workshops. Over the year, Ingrid Henderson has been assisting the committee with plans for the main Fèis and in conjunction with the Cairngorm Partnership, who administer the local LEADER+ programme and Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise, she has been researching the possibility of employing a local traditional arts officer. As well as providing administrative support for Fèis Spè, other local arts groups could benefit from this full-time post. As with most Fèis committee’s, Fèis Spè has had difficulties in recruiting new members to their ranks and over the year they have been exploring ways to attract new blood.

FÈIS RATHARSAIDH, Isle of Raasay
The annual Fèis Ratharsaidh took place over the February weekend, 15 and 16 February 2003 with a total of 23 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.

FÈIS THRÒDAIRNIS, Trotternish, North Skye
This year’s main Fèis took place during the last week of July in 2002 with a total of 39 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 throughout the year, which attracted participation from 24 individuals. As well as their normal activity, Fèis Thròdairnis participants took part in the Fort William Ceòl nam Fèis concert on 20 April 2002.

9.2 Fèis Support Worker - Christine MacIntyre

FÈIS ARAINN, Isle of Arran
This year’s Fèis took place 23-26 July, and attracted 89 participants. The Fèis benefits from having an extremely well organised committee who have a clear idea of what they want to achieve from their Fèis locally. In addition to the main Fèis, a programme of year-round classes attracted 30 individual participants.

FÈIS CARMUNNOCK, Glasgow
The Fèis was inactive over the last year, due to the work commitments of the committee. This demonstrates clearly that although there continues to be growth and development within the Fèis movement, weakness still exists due to the pressures on individual volunteers. In many instances, all it needs is for one key player to be out of action for a period of time for all activity to cease. Christine MacIntyre has maintained contact over the last year, and it is hoped that the activity will recommence later on in 2003.

FÈIS DHÙN BHREATUINN AN IAR, Dumbarton
Fèis Dhùn Bhreatuinn an Iar has always been unique in it’s method of operation, with a series of workshops over a six week period, culminating in a final grand concert. One of the great strengths of the Fèis movement has been the ability of local committees to find local solutions that match the local situation. They also have been operating an interesting project whereby one of their committee members has been touring four local primary schools teaching some Gaelic song and language. This has generated interest in Gaelic amongst the local young people. The committee has also been looking at the possibility of developing a new Gaelic orientated development that could attract EU Objective 3 funding. The Fèis are also interested in developing an internet based project and in the possibility of employing their own paid administrator.

FÈIS 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 16 November 2002, 25 January 2003, 29 March and another planned for 10 May. On their Fèis day on 16 November, they had a total of 25 children. Encouragingly 8 of these were primary 7 boys.

FÈIS LATHARNA, Oban
The annual main Fèis took place 2-5 April 2002 in the town’s Park Primary School with a total of 71 participants taking part. This was preceded by the third and fourth in a series
of pre-Fèis classes on 9 and 23 March 2002. The committee remains strong, and has been able to employ Toni Russell on a part-time basis to co-ordinate the work connected with their successful National Lottery funded programme with neighbours Fèis Mhuile. The project has allowed Fèis Latharna to develop its year-round programme of activity, with 105 individual young people taking part in the wide range of activities on offer.

FÈIS LANNRAIG A TUATH, Condorrat
The very first event held by the new Fèis Lannraig a Tuath was on 20 April 2002, 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.

FÈIS MHUILE, Isle of Mull
The Fèis has been involved with Fèis Latharna over the last year in the implementation of their National Lottery Grant award. Over and above that, the Fèis held an event 13-15 February 2003, attracting 30 young people from the Ross of Mull. The committee are very dedicated to their cause, although are based quite widely throughout this large island. The Fèis at the present time is confined to the Southern end based in Bunessan and Fionnphort. In addition to the 6 subjects offered at the Fèis, there was a Croileagan for younger participants. Christine MacIntyre along with Toni Russell and the committee are actively working to develop the Fèis for the 2004 event.

FÈIS 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. A weekend of events due to run 18-22 February did not come to fruition due to the difficulties outlined above. Christine MacIntyre remains in contact with the remaining committee members, and it is hoped to do some work in the next 12 months to help revive this event, which has been extremely successful and useful in the past.

FÈIS OIGRIDH GLASCHU, Glasgow
Fèis Oigridh Glaschu retains its unique position as the only Fèis in Scotland that focuses solely on drama. The event which is conducted entirely through the medium of Gaelic runs over a number of weeks with visits to Gaelic classes and schools in and around Glasgow. This culminates with a large scale performance at the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow which this year was staged on 14 May 2002. In all, some 400 plus young people took part in the event.

FÈIS THIRIODH, Isle of Tiree
The Fèis took place in July 2002, with a total of 60 young people took part in a range of workshops. The Fèis and the rest of the island had hoped to be in the new hall for 2001, but unfortunately due to funding difficulties this was still not available for this year’s event. In addition to their main Fèis, the committee has been extremely active in sustaining an extensive year-round programme, with over 70 young people participating regularly. Fèis Thiriodh continues to produce an excellent range of distinctive merchandise from fleeces to sports bags, which raises a significant amount of income towards the cost of the Fèis each year.

FÈIS CHILLE CHONBHAIL, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire
This is a new Fèis jointly funded by Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Councils and is operated by Alasdair Law. The Fèis operates over all three local authorities, with events happening in Greenock, Wednesday 17 July 2002 and St. Ninian’s High School, Eastwood Park, 30 July-2 August, where 50 young people took part. The range of activities on offer over the two events included Gaelic language, Gaelic song, Bòdhran, Clàrsach, Whistle and Step Dance.

FÈIS A’ BHAILE, Inverness
A total of 60 participants took part in this year’s main Fèis a`Bhaile, 21-25 October 2002, held at Charleston Academy, Inverness. Rachel Stevenson assisted the Fèis with mail-outs of publicity to local schools and libraries, and attended the event for three days to
provide practical hands-on support. The week was rounded off with a family concert, attracting a large number of parents, friends and supporters to the High School’s impressive theatre.

**FÈIS CHILLE MHÒRAIG, Kilmorack, by Beauly**
Their main Fèis event was held in and around Beauly on 28 and 29 September 2002, and attracted 50 participants. The event was rounded off with a concert in the Phipps Hall, Beauly which was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd. 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. This was completed over summer 2002 and was officially launched on 29 September at the Fèis. In addition, Fèis Chille Mhòraig operates an extensive programme of year-round activities.

**FÈIS NA COMRAICH, Applecross**
Fèis na Comraich has been through a difficult time over the last number of months and after considerable problems within the committee it was decided to take a break from activity for a while to let the dust settle. Rachel Stevenson, along with Director Arthur Cormack, met the remaining committee in Applecross in November to present the programme of committee training. It was hoped at that time that an AGM would be held in December. It later emerged that a new committee had been elected and a new contact established. The new group hope to run a weekend Fèis and two Saturday workshops in Clàrsach and Fiddle over the next year.

**FÈIS CHATAIBH, Sutherland**
Fèis Chataibh has continued to develop over the last twelve months with the coming onstream of their Summer Cèilidh Trail programme in 2002. In total 17 applications were received to participate in the event, with this number reduced to 8 plus 2 reserves through a system of auditions. Two leaders, Judy Gale and Carol-Anne MacKay were engaged to train and lead the group over the coming weeks as they visited Golspie, Shin Falls, Dunrobin Castle, Strathy Hall, Helmsdale, Embo, Clashmore, Durness, Kinlochbervie, Rogart and Stoer. The final night event in Stoer Hall was so full that there was dancing in the streets! The Northern Times headline read, "You can’t park there, that’s our dance floor!"

In addition to this exciting development, Fèis Chataibh held there annual Fèis in Golspie High School, 8-12 July 2002, with 87 participants attending. The Fèis ran an extensive programme of year-round classes with 65 individual young people taking part over the course of the programme.

**FÈIS DHÙN EIDEANN, Edinburgh**
The Fèis has been very active over the last twelve months with their main Fèis taking place in James Gillespie’s High School, 14-17 February and 57 young people taking part. Over and above this was their huge programme of year-round activity which in total offered 2,900 lessons to 132 individuals in the year. The Fèis were very actively pursuing the idea of establishing a Gaelic medium Fèis, drawing on young people attending Gaelic-medium classes and schools in the Central Belt area. This was scheduled for November 2002, but unfortunately the initial response was very poor and the event was cancelled. However, they have regrouped from this disappointment and are still keen to run this event at some point in 2003. Fèis Dhùn Eideann young people have again been active at playing for various events in and around the Edinburgh area including the Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM in September 2002.

**FÈIS NA H-ÒIGE, Inverness**
The Fèis committee has once again been very active in 2002-03 with a series of Saturday workshops stretching over the winter months. As this event is conducted wholly through the medium of Gaelic, participants are drawn from a wide area, including Dingwall, Ullapool and Newtonmore as well as from the Gaelic department at Central Primary School. Over the course of the year the committee worked very hard to establish a three-day main Fèis, which took place at Inverness High School in early July 2002 with over 40 attending from all over Scotland. Given the success of the event, the committee has plans to develop a full five days of activity in summer 2003.
FÈIS ROIS, Ross-shire
Fèis Rois Oigrídh took place in Ullapool 8-12 April 2002, with a record 181 participants accommodated throughout the village. So popular is this event, that numbers are only limited by the available bed space in Ullapool. The local High School and the MacPhail Centre again provided space for both the workshops and concerts. The return rate of application forms was truly incredible, with over 70 spaces filled within the first week of the form being sent out. The week was rounded off with another successful, filled to capacity final concert.

This was followed a month later by Fèis Rois Inbhich also in Ullapool, 4-6 May 2002. Described in the application form, quoting from a previous participant as “The Best weekend of the Year” the event attracted over 200 adults from all over Scotland and other further flung places throughout the globe! The combination of great tutors and great weather ensured that a good time was had by all. It is clear from the sheer scale of the event that Fèis Rois Inbhich has become one of the ‘must attend’ events in the traditional music calendar and provides a significant boost to the local economy.

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 22 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 21-25 October 2002 in Ullapool. A total of 90 participants took part, with 19 of these coming from out with the Ross and Cromarty area.

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; workshops in both informal and formal education settings to over 360 individual young people.

FÈIS 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 from January to April 2003. On offer was tuition in a wide range of disciplines including Gaelic language and fiddle. In addition to the tuition, the committee at Farr Hall organise regular high quality traditional music concerts, featuring some of the biggest names on the go. It is clear that with the Fèis and the provision of these concerts that the Strath Nairn area is developing as a real hot spot of traditional music in the Highlands.

9.4 Fèis Support Worker - Fiona MacInnes

FÈIS BHARRAIGH, Isle of Barra
This year’s Fèis took place 8-12 July 2002, which is earlier than normal. A total of 160 young people took part, which was a significant rise from the previous year. There has been a substantial turnaround in the fortunes of the Fèis from a couple of years ago. With a new committee on board it seems clear that things have been turned around and that the Fèis movement will be able to celebrate 25 years in 2005, hopefully in Barra. As well as planning and running the 2002 event, the committee has been actively keeping one eye on 2003 with plans to expand the event to provide special workshops for the very young, teenagers and adults. Fèis Support Worker Fiona MacInnes played an important and crucial role in assisting the new committee organise and run the event.

FÈIS EILEAN AN FHRAOICH, Isle of Lewis
Based in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich 2002 attracted approximately 200 participants. The event which ran for five days in late July was a great success and the financial problems of the previous year’s event seems to be past them. However, funding remains tight and the committee have been actively trying to secure additional funds to leave the finances on a stronger footing. This is a problem with main Fèisean in that it can be hard to raise all of the money required, and cash flow at the time of the Fèis remains tricky to manage.

FÈIS EILEAN NA HEARADH, Isle of Harris
The Fèis was held in the school at Tarbert with 52 young people taking part in the activities on offer, which ranged from Gaelic song to Shinty. The committee has been very active in
seeking new developments, and over the course of the year in conjunction with Fiona MacInnes, drew up an ultimately unsuccessful bid for funding for musical instruments. The Féis also came up with the idea of receiving instruction from tutors off the islands either by means of video or video-conferencing. These ideas have been looked into and hopefully something can be done at some point in the future.

FÉIS TÌR A’ MHURAIN, South Uist
Fèis Tire a’ Mhurain took place in Sgoil Dhalabroig 1-5 July 2002, with a total of 50 young people taking part. The Féis, 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 also. The Féis had been based in previous years at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula, so it was particularly pleasing to see it move back into the heart of the South Uist community. Although the first Féis took place in Barra in 1981, the roots of the movement stretch further back to South Uist, where Father Colin MacInnes was based. He first came up with the idea whilst based there, but it wasn’t until he took up residence in Barra that the idea became a reality.

FÉIS TÌR AN EÒRNA, North Uist
The main Féis, based in Sgoil Phabail, 1-5 July 2002 again attracted a record-breaking number of participants, with 113 signed up for the week. The Féis continues to show excellent growth and standards, in great part driven by the follow-on programme covering subjects including fiddle, pipes and song. Along with a range of other developments in the Uists including neighbouring Fèis Tire a’ Mhurain, Colaisde Beinn nam Faoghla, Ceòlas and Taigh Chearsabhagh, the area is developing a reputation as a centre of artistic activity in the Western Highlands and Islands. This was confirmed at the Ceòl nam Fèis Concert in Sgoil Lionacleit on 3 May, where both the local young people and indeed those from all over the Western Isles showed the great talent existing throughout the islands. Fèis Tire an Eòrna played a significant part in this, with some excellent performances from their singing and fiddle groups.

FÉIS TAIGH DHONNCHAIDH, Ness, Isle of Lewis
Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh is the newest Féis in the Western Isles group, but has been quick to establish its reputation locally and further afield. Based in the house gifted to Comunn Eachdraidh Nis by Duncan Morrison, the facility has been used to progress both tuition and performance within the community. In particular the teaching of melodeon plays a key role in the Féis and reflects the general growth in interest in the instrument particularly in Lewis. However, the programme of activity extends to a wider range of activities and in the year 2002-03 some 64 individual young people took advantage of the activities on offer.
## 10.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal trading account for the year to 31 March 2003

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<td>Training Programme</td>
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<td><strong>Net surplus/(deficit) for the period</strong></td>
<td><strong>£ 18,243</strong></td>
<td><strong>£ 2,721</strong></td>
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### Fèisean nan Gàidheal balance sheet as at 31 March 2003

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<th>2003 £</th>
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<td><strong>Net Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Profit and loss account</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£ 31,186</td>
<td>£ 12,943</td>
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**Note:** The figures in the table are in British pounds (£).
Appendix 1  Board Members 2002-03

1  **John MacDonald, Chairman**  
Lònach, Kilmore, Sleat, Isle of Skye, IV44 8RG  
Tel.  01471 844351

**Elected Fèis Members**

2  **Rita Hunter, Secretary**  
9 Camden Street, Evanton, Ross-shire, IV16 9XU  
Tel.  01349 862600

3  **Nanac Skivington, Treasurer**  
3 Grenitote, Sollas, North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5BP  
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