

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Feis Ceoil Association,
Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.*

The Chairman Mr. Ray Bates opened the meeting by welcoming members.

1. Notice and Quorum

The Chairman requested confirmation from attendees that the requisite notice of the AGM had been received, which was agreed. It was also confirmed that quorum had been reached, there being in excess of 20 members in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been accepted from 10 members whose names were read out at the meeting. (*See apologies and attendance list enclosed*)

3. Matters arising from minutes of AGM February 2022

The minutes of the AGM which had taken place on 25th February 2022 had been made available to all members. The Chairman enquired whether there were any matters arising from same. As there were not, it was proposed by Ursula Gormley and seconded by Colma Brioscú that the minutes were a true and accurate account of the meeting. The minutes will be presented to the Chairman for signature when that is next feasible.

4. Retirement of Directors and appointment of new Directors:

As the term of office for Fiona Naughton had come to an end, she stepped down from her position as Director. The Chair thanked her sincerely for her work during her time on the Board and for her stated commitment to help in any way she can going forward.

James Gleeson, Chris O'Toole and Deirdre Seaver, having each completed three years' service, are now eligible for re-election. All three have kindly agreed to remain on in their roles as Finance Director, Company Secretary and with responsibility for non-competitive events respectively. It was proposed by Emmanuel Lawler and seconded by David Mooney that they be re-elected for a further term.

5. Financial Report and adoption of Financial Statements for the year ending 31st July 2021. (*See enclosed from Finance Director*)

It was proposed by Edith Forrest and seconded by Maeve Broderick to approve the accounts as presented by the Finance Director.

Barry Murphy applauded the fact that the Association had come out of the down year better than it had gone into it.

Ursula Gormley issued a vote of thanks to James Gleeson and Laura Gilsenan for their work on the Financial Statements.

6. Appointment of Auditors

The Chairman announced that it was the wish of the Association to re-appoint KSI Faulkner Orr as auditors for the coming year. This was proposed by Andy Gilsenan and seconded by Deirdre Seaver.

7. Address by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ray Bates

(See enclosed from Board Chairman)

8. Any Other Business

Joan Cowle brought to members' attention that after 117 years, the Feis Ceoil office had relocated from Molesworth St. to Morrison Chambers in Nassau St.

Colma Brioscú expressed her thanks to Andy Gilsenan for how efficiently she deals with any questions or complaints that may arise. This was unanimously echoed by those in attendance.

Emmanuel Lawler noted that in the last two years, the continuation of the Feis had contributed so much to students and expressed his thanks.

Colma Brioscú agreed and added that the teachers also very much appreciated the continuation of the Feis, which, it was felt, was vital.

Maeve Broderick commented that there was great enjoyment to be had from listening to the recordings (during Virtual Feis) without distraction. It provided a different space in which to appreciate the Feis.

Barry Murphy remarked on the astonishing standard of the piano competitions, even amongst the youngest age-groups.

Ray Bates summarised the welcome comments by members by saying that Feis Ceoil had succeeded in making something uniquely positive out of a negative situation.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____
Ray Bates, Chair

Date: _____

Encs. Finance Director's Report
Chairman's Report
Apologies and attendance list

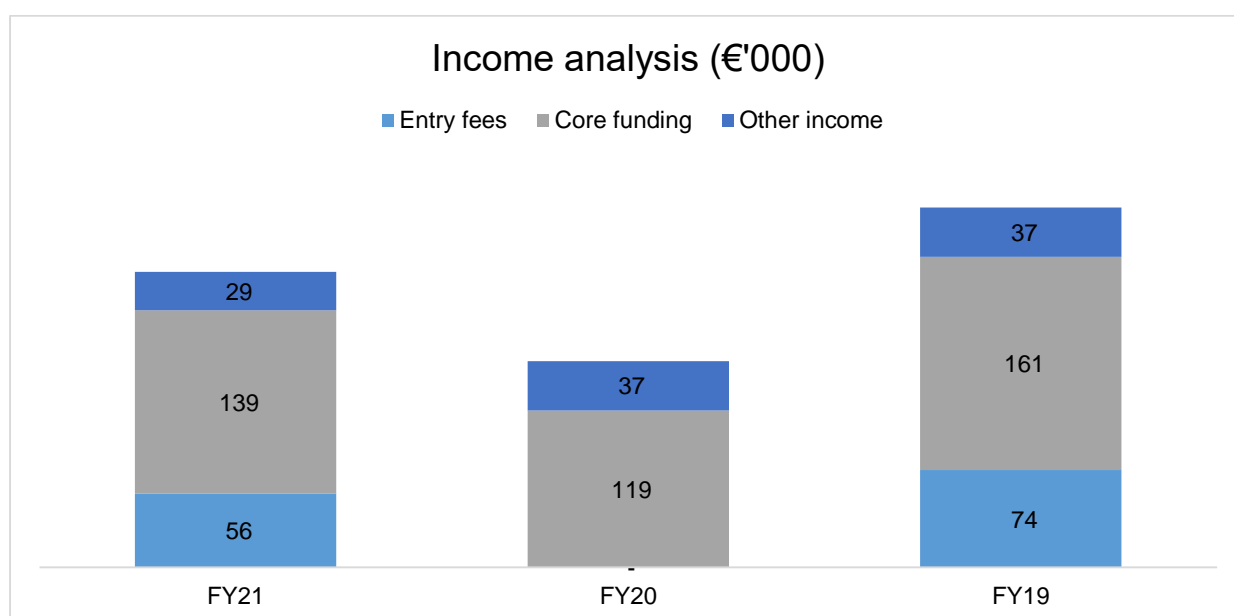
Finance Director's Report

During the financial year ending 31 July 2019, the Company secured a grant arrangement with the RDS which provided the bandwidth to pursue activities to increase the scope of the Feis Ceoil's charitable purposes and strategic goal of cultivating and advancing the musical arts in Ireland.

As with its peers in the not-for-profit sector, and the wider Irish economy, the Company's plans were curtailed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 Feis Ceoil, for only the second time in its 125-year history.

In respect of the 2021 festival, the Feis had time to prepare and adapt to a social-distancing environment, and moved to a virtual environment as discussed throughout the Annual Report.

This analysis is provided as context to better understand the year-on-year movements as analysed further below.



Key features

Entry fees

Prior the 2020 Festival, the amount generated from entry fees was typically stable from one year to the next. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Festival, the Company did not generate any income from entry fees in the comparative financial year. While the 2021 Festival saw the return of income generated from entry fees, they did not reach the FY19 level due to the deferral of certain group competitions.

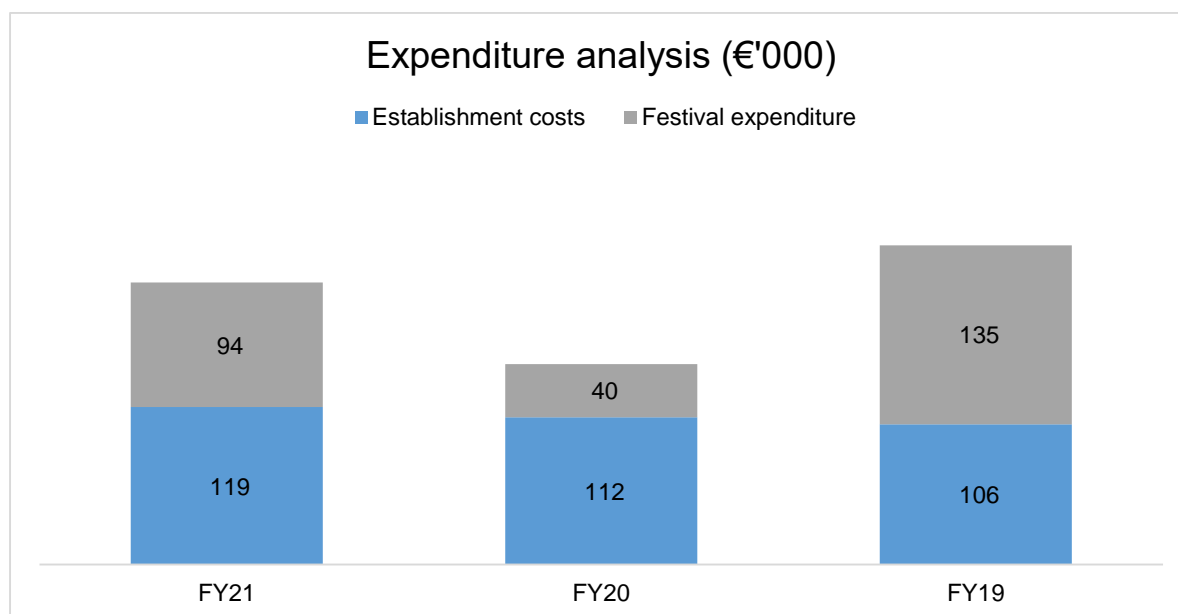
Core funding

Core funding comprises:

- income received under the Company's grant agreement with RDS of €70,000 (2020: €25,000), which was depressed in the comparative year due to the cancelled festival;
- income received under the Company's former title sponsorship arrangement with the ESB of €Nil (2020: €50,000) which concluded in the comparative year; and
- income from private donors of €69,000 (2020: €44,000).

Other income

Historically, other income comprised amounts which are generated during the Festival, such as door takings and programme sales. In the comparative year, the amount was inflated on a once-off basis due to donated entry fees as a result of the cancelled festival. The current year amount has reduced to reflect the hosting of a Virtual Festival.



Key features

Festival expenditure

In the comparative year, the Company incurred certain unavoidable costs in relation to the last-minute cancellation of the Festival.

In the current year, key components of Festival expenditure comprise amounts paid to adjudicators and advertising, PR, and printing expenditure. In addition, the Company incurred €30,000 in website fees connected to the hosting of the Virtual Feis in an online forum.

Establishment costs

Establishment costs comprise all expenditure related to the ongoing activities of the Company including premises, utilities, employee-related and administrative expenditure.

Funding position and going concern

The Board and management extend their gratitude to the RDS, as Grant-providers, and private donors, whose continued support and generosity affords the Company the opportunity to continue our ambition to cultivate and advance the musical arts in Ireland.

We have adequate financial resources to meet our policy of holding funds enough in reserve to host at least one additional year's Feis Ceoil. As a result, the Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Chairman's Report

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure to present the Directors Report in respect of the year ended 31 July 2021.

As was the case for so many organisations and associations in Ireland, 2021 for Feis Ceoil was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we moved through its various stages, it seemed at times as if we might never regain any semblance of normal life again. And in the midst of it all, our thoughts and deepest sympathies must be with those Members and families who have lost loved ones during these strange and difficult times.

However, on a brighter note, I am pleased to report that, in spite of the challenging times, our CEO, Laura, and the entire Feis team of staff, adjudicators and volunteers managed to deliver a Feis that more than bears comparison with previous festivals. Building on the experience gained from the "reimagined" 2020 virtual Feis, the team delivered an enhanced online Feis incorporating additional innovations that may become permanent fixtures in the Feis format when it eventually returns to its "new normal".

For obvious reasons it became necessary to cancel all competitions involving groups or ensembles, but I am pleased to report that the level of participation in the remaining individual competitions almost matched the participation rates of previous Feiseanna. Also, the inclusion of elements such as the recording and streaming of the adjudicators' markings and comments was seen by many as a welcome innovation.

Laura and the team are to be congratulated for their resilience, ingenuity and agility in their response to the changed environment, as are all of the participants for their sheer enthusiasm and willingness to adjust to, and embrace, the revised format and requirements.

I want to recognise the vital support of all of our sponsors – RDS as our primary grant provider; Carmel Naughton, SteriPack, ESB, for its support over the last decade; and a most welcome grant from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Despite the exceptional circumstances, the overall financial health of the Feis remains sustainable as you will see in the Financial Statements. However, we will continue our quest for additional funds and funders to support our growth into new festival and performance opportunities.

I would like to thank our loyal Members, our tireless and generous volunteers and all those who help make the Feis happen. We will continue to support and enhance our service to, and relationship with, the music teachers on the island of Ireland. It is in our mutual interest to support each other by whatever means possible.

I would like to thank each and every member of the Board for their dedication and contribution to every aspect of the remit of the Feis. They bring to the table an extensive range and depth of music, education and business experience which they are happy and eager to share for the furtherance of the role of the Feis in Irish musical life.

Special thanks are due to our departing Board Member Fiona Naughton who leaves the Board in accordance with the rules for rotation of Board Membership. As for all past Board Members, we hope to see them continue to lend their support to the work of the Feis in the coming months and years.

I am particularly pleased to announce that we have a new President, Kathleen Watkins, who has agreed to take on the position from this year. Kathleen is a past Feis winner and brings a rich background in music, entertainment, media and talent to our world. We are pleased and honoured to have her join us.

So, as we navigate our way through the uncertain waters around us, we can rest assured that when the pandemic has eventually been tamed, music and performance will come roaring back with all of its personal and societal benefits, and the Feis will be there ready to play its part ... because we all have need of something that goes beyond words.

Ray Bates
Chair

Feis Ceoil 2021 AGM Apologies and Attendee list

Apologies:

Bernie Sherlock
Veronica McSwiney
Ada Kelly
Angela Nicholls
Therese Fahy
Eithne White
Ann Fitzpatrick
Paula Glasgow
Katleen Watkins
Sheila Larchet Cuthbert

In Attendance:

Laura Gilsenan
Andy Gilsenan
Ray Bates
James Gleeson
Deirdre Seaver
David Mooney
Chris O'Toole
Joan Cowle
Edith Forrest
Ursula Gormley
Marie O'Halloran
Jane Buckley
Maeve Broderick
Emmanuel Lawler
Jack Morrissey
Carmel Naughton
Barry Murphy
Haitian Ni
Michael Cullen
Mary Mulcahy
Anna McCabe
Maeve Madden
Kevin Hough
Ita Beausang
Colma Brioscu
Carmel Naughton
Enid Chaloner
Ted Morrissey