

Annual General Meeting

The Celtic Flute School of New Zealand, Inc (Ceol Aneas)

8 June 2020 7.45 pm

Attendees

Doug Makinson, Chair (DM), Lynne Wilkins, Treasurer (LW), Kara Dawson, Secretary (KD), Michael Mackinnon (MM), Ted Cizadlo (TC), Chihleng Tham (CT), Helen Lindsay (HL), Treza Galloghly (TG), Annie Pawley (AP).

Apologies

Pat Higgins, Jen Naper

Chairman's Report

1. Online Ceol Aneas

The festival started with students uploading videos of their own playing to introduce themselves to the tutors. Meet the Tutors on 6 June was successful with our four online tutors. Tutors have each pre-recorded 3 lessons plus an introduction. These have been uploaded to the Google Drive folders. On Saturday 13 June the online lessons will be held, followed by the Irish Ambassador's event. An additional flute class will be scheduled on Sunday 14 June if numbers require.

For the virtual Ceol Aneas event, we have 71 registered students enrolled, with a good level of donations. DM thanked the committee for their work towards the online festival - LW for keeping the finances in good hands, KD for secretarial responsibilities and surveys, MM for organising tutors and flights and NCF liaison, CT social media and website, TC slow session and experience, HL front desk and Nelson liaison, PH original founder and keeps us grounded in tradition, JN co-opted Nelson liaison and tutor selection. Also thanked Peter Ryan for practical help (Zoom license), promotion, financial assistance with tutor payment.

2. Scholarship

Hugo Foundation gave a lump sum in 2019, to be split over 3 years. Two rego only scholarships and one full ride scholarship were offered this year but will be deferred to next year.

3. Tutor tunes database

AL has been working behind the scenes on this. Privacy and access issues are being addressed. DM acknowledged all the work AL has put in to the tunes database.

4. Other supporters and partners

DM thanked Bizworkz (accountancy), Brendyn Montgomery (web design), Robin Whalley (auditing), local Nelson businesses Accents YHA, Trafalgar Lodge, NCMA, Free House, Wakatu, Workshop and

Yazza café. Letter to be sent to these businesses; invite them to final public meeting (ambassador's event).

TG moved that the Chairman's report be accepted, MM 2nd.

AL – is the money received from grants held over or has it been returned?

DM – we didn't receive any money up front, so none needed to be returned.

Treasurer's Report

We had some good income from sponsors eg Rata, Hugo, NCMA and others, so we came out of the 2019 financial year well. This meant that we were able to prepare for this year's festival with \$23,000 in the bank - not quite enough to run the festival with no income. There is \$2270 left in scholarship fund, and this is only to be spent on scholarships. We started the financial year in a better position than we ever have been since LW took over as Treasurer.

Investigate the situation with Muireann's airfares – refund or carry over? Donation pledges have been generous. We are setting up a Paypal account to receive overseas donations this year and in the future (especially for our Australian tutors). This has been an ongoing challenge, and the lockdown situation has expedited the solution. We have had a few children sign up this year, where normally CA would be very expensive for them and parents. We have learnt from this experience and there may be some ways we can use technology in future to enhance CA and remove some of the barriers.

LW moved that her report be accepted. HL 2nd.

Resignations and nominations

All of committee and officers have been nominated including JN nominated as full committee.

TC – this is the first year that we have used our new policy. MM, LW, DM and HL have been on the committee the longest, and therefore are the first to be up for re-election.

AL moved that the four longest serving committee members Michael Mackinnon, Lynne Wilkins, Doug Makinson and Helen Lindsay be elected to the committee and DM elected as chair, LW as Treasurer (MM as committee member; HL as committee member). TG second. All in favour.

DM – The remainder of the committee including Kara Dawson as secretary are not up for election and so will carry on in their posts until next year. Endorsed the others and thanked them for carrying on in their roles. (Note: Jen Naper was also nominated as a full committee member, but this was not ratified at the AGM due to an oversight. The appointment will be ratified in the next committee meeting).

AL – proposed an unofficial Nelson based session gathering before CA next year. LW – would be a way to support the venues that missed out on revenue during lockdown. DM – CA wouldn't have to be involved other than contacting the venues. DM – combine with the committee gathering in Nov/Dec?

TC – Meet the Tutors went exceptionally well. Achieved most aspects of the live experience. Some advantages to getting to know the tutors ahead of time. Proposed that the committee consider doing something like this ahead of next year's event. Also the tune teaching videos being released ahead of time may be worth doing again. For a lot of people tune learning is not the main thing. Could use some of afternoon time for more instructional purposes instead of Meet the Tutors.

MM – MTT makes the tutors seem more human, increases the reach and appeal. LW – could allow past registrants to join MTT. Also could help connect younger players into our community. KD – will do a survey after the event. Committee to please send question suggestions.

AP – has appreciated the video and audio tracks released in advance. AL - suggested starting a video archive along with the tunes archive.

DM – main challenge was managing all of the links and meeting invites as they were on different accounts. This would help streamline the communication. LW – should build a Zoom account into our budget for meetings and online teaching. AL – need to work out the best technology solutions for document storage, archiving and online meetings. LW proposed an IT subcommittee to work towards next festival to look at solutions.

Meeting closed at 8.44 pm