

Annual General Meeting

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

5th June 2022 2.00 pm

Attendees

Doug Makinson, Chair (DM), Lynne Wilkins, Treasurer (LW), Michael Mackinnon (MM), Ted Cizadlo (TC), Chihleng Tham (CT), Helen Lindsay (HL), Pat Higgins (PH), Ciara Duncum (CD), Jeanette Ware (JW), Evey McAuliffe (EM), Maeve Hughes (MH), Henry Burton Wood.

Apologies

Kara Dawson, Secretary (KD), Jen Naper (JN), Jill Poulsten (JP),

Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were circulated. CD moved a motion to accept them, PH seconded - **Carried.**

Chairman's Report

DM thanked the committee, Chi (social), Lynne (Finances), Pat, (wisdom), Jen for huge legwork around venues, Helen Lindsay for groundwork, Kara Dawson for secretariat. Jill Poulsten committee member for coordination.

This year COVID impact meant attendance reached 74 registrations.

Uilleann piping was added to the faculty this year. Set dancing, Bouzouki forum, and "try the pipes" experiments. Different and new formats, but good experiments.

Live lounge on Friday night was very successful. New venues, Moma Cod, and Kismet. JN did a lot of work with these.

DM acknowledged the NRDA for their financial support. No Scholarship this year due to COVID

Great support from YHA. Needed to find a new Tutor accommodation. Worked well.

Moved and seconded Pat/Chi

Treasurer's Report

CA is an incorporated Society, so needs to produce an SOSP (Statement of Service Performance). This documents what we do with the money, attendance, goals, fostering young people's musical development."

The financial report is to the last FY. COVID impacted some reporting. NRDA support and higher student numbers resulted in a \$8,679 surplus from the last event (June 2020).

To grow out to international tutors now, will be more than in previous years. (Currently \$32K surplus in the bank). An international event cost is forecasted to be \$30-35 K in the future.

Questions:

Maeve Hughes "Do we have investments"

CA has a savings account, currently low yield, might increase.

Evey McCauliffe "Has the Embassy contributed?"

Not recently. In 2020 the Embassy did fund 2 Tutors fees.

Ted Cizadlo "Pleased to see Pipers involved, "what was their compensation (three tutors)?"

DM: "CA funded 1 tutor, which the pipers then split into 3 students."

LW: CA evaluates the event, to see how experiments worked.

DM: "Set dancing was also a trial, the fee was set to cover the costs (18 attendees). Though the sound fee also came out of this area."

(Additional registration types, make for an admin overhead.)

Chi: "These new type of event/registrations could be molded.."

Treasurer moved the report.

Seconded by DM

Rule Change

Charitable organizations have seen lots of recent changes, adding administrative overhead. CFSNZ is in a complex funding / reporting scheme, which funders like as it is more comprehensive. An audit has been required since 2006.

Now (new requirements) mean reporting is optional, versus no audit, or a review.

CA being cashless has de-risked our compliance landscape. Less likelihood for personal gain/ fraud. The cost of audits now outweighs the risk since we became digital-first (only). The fees for an audit are prohibitive now considering the amounts involved, and the security provided by low-zero cash.

It costs \$NZ 3K per annum to run an audit. We have only had 1 cash payment this year.

Proposal: Adopt a rule to allow an audit, or review, or none at all (low risk)

"Remove the Society's requirement for a compulsory audit, of the financial statements."

Change the wording: To...." The Treasurer shall be responsible for tabling accurate financial reports at an AGM or a special General Meeting. The members can request an audit or review if required OR a committee member can request an audit in advance."

Treasurer: We may need to get the accounts out in advance so the members can review the finances, with a view to requesting an audit. (Wording coming from Lynne)

(Rule Section 8)

Q: Ceara D. Would this require a vote (requesting the audit/ or an explanation.) ?

Treasurer: The first step would be to ask for an explanation, and then the meeting can decide whether an audit is demanded.

One path to an audit would be a motion from the floor for an audit, vote, and a majority?

Kris N: Would it need a quorum/majority of those present? If so, what is the threshold?
(A majority of those present, to prevent a rogue member creating a financial burden.)

Treasurer: We would follow the rules for a motion from the floor, and specifically the rules around

A funder might require an audit for CA to obtain those funds.

International tutor costs might push CA above \$NZ 50 K and thus need more rigorous auditing (and the associated costs).

Email record:

(Actual wording taken from an email from LW to the committee 19/5/2022, for accuracy)

LW: I think that the option should be available and outlined in the Rules to have either an Audit (which is the full-on process) or Review (less robust) take place.

Having this in the Rules provides an assurance to funders that this is an option available to the entity.

Alternatively, we could leave the wording very similar to the existing and just remove the reference to audit altogether. But I think we should add the requirement to have the accounts approved at the AGM or an SGM?

The other point I will make is, I said that the society can appoint – this allows Members to request the accounts be audited or reviewed, it isn't then just a decision made by the committee. I think it's a good safeguard.

Wording in the newsletter to introduce the rule change could be something along these lines:

The Committee are aware that due to the increasingly costly compliance requirements for Auditors and Reviewers, we have been very fortunate thus far to be able to have our accounts audited at no cost for the last few years. Due to the likelihood of having to pay for an Audit or Review in the future, the committee wishes to change the rules so that an Audit or Review is only carried out when it is necessary (for example, at a funder's request).

The Committee has considered the risk posed to the society of removing the requirement for an annual Audit. Thanks to technology, nearly everything occurs online now, which considerably reduces the risk to The Celtic Flute School of New Zealand Incorporated in relation to loss or misappropriation of funds (compared to the risk that used to be present in past years). The society has many safeguards in place and feels that this is the right time to remove the requirement but leave the option.

Moved: M. MacKinnon and Ted Cizadlo and forgo last year's audit.

Seconded: Maeve Hughes.

Passed.

Resignations and nominations

Resignations: Kate Murphy, Chi Ling, Pat Higgins.

Nominations:

Michael MacKinnon, moved DM, Seconded Evey McAulliffe

Passed

Catlin Ryan moved TC, Seconded Ceara Duncum

Passed

Chair: DM Proposed by Michael MacKinnon, Seconded Maeve Hughes

Passed

Treasurer: Lynne Wilkins stood again.

PH proposed LW for Treasurer. Seconded CD.

Passed

Kara Dawson is staying on the committee.

Helen Lindsay proposed and seconded as a committee member.

Passed

Co-Opting Support

A call was made, for names, to co-opt additional support.

Chi mentioned a liaison person for the Pipers.

DM. This year's workload was higher. Need to be proactive about additional support.

Meeting closed at 13.52 pm.