

Annual General Meeting

Irish Flute School of NZ (Inc.) (Ceol Aneas)

Sunday 4th June, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, Nile St Nelson

Committee attending: Doug Makinson (DM) (Chair), Lynne Wilkins (LW) (Treasurer), Kara Dawson (KD) (Secretary), Michael Mackinnon (MM), Jill Poulston (JP), Helen Lindsay (HL) (Jen Naper (JN) joined the meeting at 1.15 pm).

Members attending: Pat Higgins (PH), Jeanette Ware (JW), Salvador Delgado Oro (SD), Catherine-Jaye Timman (CT), Don Couling (DC), Charlie O'Hara-Smith, Robin Whalley (RW), Jennifer Clarke (JC), Sophia Bidwell (SB), Andy Linton (AL), Russell Gillies (RG), Annie Pawley (AP).

Meeting started at 12.53 pm.

Last year's minutes: AL proposed to accept the minutes. Pat 2nd. The major change was removing the need for an audit.

1. Chairperson's report

Acknowledged the committee for their work – LW for managing accounts and governance/finance. KD secretary & social media/student queries – HL Nelson and front-of-house, ceili and set dancing liaison. HL and JN – venue liaison and working with the tutors. MM – logistics of tutors & flights. JP – registrations and newsletter, DC – piper representative.

Significant change this year – bringing three tutors from Ireland for the first time post Covid. CI funding covered airfares and accommodation. Weekend going well so far. Mid 90s student registrations. Partnership with NCF – calls with Una – relationship developing. Five tutors from Australia and two from NZ. First year we have had a paid piping tutor.

Pipers thanked CA for making this happen – expressed appreciation. AL asked if there was a boosting effect excluding the pipers. Two set dancing afternoon workshops were held. Set dancing may become a full 3-day course. Gradually growing. Ceili – 95 people turned up. Four free regos for VicFolk. We should review the amount of money we spend on the ceili.

Pub venues are working well. Venues have all expressed their intention to continue supporting us next year. JN – transparency with venues – close up if not making money. AL – remind people to buy drinks or food. DM – maintain the good working relationships.

Scholarships – two scholarships this year. Fund needs to be topped up now from Hugo C T. Donations from people who are unable to attend or donate with their rego. Brings new people into the community.

Pre-recorded tunes – quite a lot of work to send out the tune folder links – feedback in questionnaire – do people find this useful?

Proxy votes – we don't have any established procedure for this.

JP moved Chair report accepted. LW 2nd.

2. Treasurer's Report

Two years running with NZ based tutors only. Comparable but unusual. In 2020 we only had an online festival. To bring international tutors, we need a lot of funding. NRDA specifically mentioned for their generosity. Overseas tutors – funding from CI and any other sources. Next year's report will reflect the CI funding and partnership with NCF. International tutors – additional costs with getting tutors down from Auckland – also extra work for the committee.

From 2022 small surplus. Hold what we have in the bank account to form the seeding money for next year. Important for us to carry funds forward every year – project for a major disaster (30-40K but probably closer to the 40K). Good value for \$165 early bird registration – heavily subsidised. Model works well but relies on committee volunteers. Accounts run to end Dec. Started with 33,000 in bank – hoping to end close to that again but final washup has not been done yet.

Scholarship fund end 2022 \$2500 but we gave out two scholarships – will need topping up but we also need to continue to encourage donations and seek funding. Important to bring young people on board to ensure continuity for the future. AL – If we go back to 2019, which should be roughly comparable, are we in similar financial shape? LW – yes, but lots of costs have gone up. We hope to continue bringing 2-3 tutors from Ireland every year. This is reflected in the enrolments, as we have two Irish fiddle tutors – attracts interest and looks good to the funders. PH – is there any one thing that has ballooned in cost? LW – airfares and accommodation. Georgina has sold Trafalgar Lodge so we have had to find an alternative. MM – also needed to pay more for sound. PH – have registrations gone up accordingly? LW – we will automate registrations and payments from 2024 onwards. Airfares for students have also gone up – we need to make it affordable for students, especially young ones, so a balance needs to be achieved between cost and affordability. We will re-examine our model as a committee. PH – is there enough of a community to offer billets for the tutors? LW – NCF billets tutors – we should look at this. JW – waged and unwaged registration fees would level the playing field. LW – student registrations are approx. half of the general registration. JP – supporters' registration. JW – how lucky we are, and it is vital that people acknowledge this and contribute. LW – people are generous with their time and donations. Important to remind people that we need support.

RG – do we have accounts audited? LW – is a chartered accountant. When we went into Covid times, auditing fees increased hugely. We looked at our budget (would cost around 2500) – amended our rules last year to allow for audit, lower level or none. Members or committee can ask for audited accounts. LW can't call on her firm to audit due to a conflict of interest. Becoming harder to find an auditor that will do this more cheaply. Funders have not required audit.

JP – moved Treasurer's report accepted. PH seconded.

3. Resignations and nominations

LW explained our two year roll over system.

AL nominated KD, JP and DC. JW seconded. All in favour.

DM – standing down as chair.

KD nominated. By JW, seconded by Sophia Bidwell. JW – thanks to DM for guiding us through Covid times. LW as well. Immediate past president.

Treasurer – LW rolled over – Succession KD nominated, AL seconded.

Secretary – JP nominated by MM. Annie Pawley seconded.

Resignation – JN – DM expressed appreciation. JN happy to assist from afar.

New nominations – Jennifer Clark – JW proposed, Sophia 2nd.

Karen Reid also nominated by KD – seconded by TC.

Don as a full committee member – DM suggested in future a representative of each instrumental group on the committee.

No other business. PH – expressed thanks to the committee for all the work.

AGM concluded at 1.32 pm.