

# **Irish Flute School of New Zealand (Inc.) (Ceol Aneas)**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Nelson Centre of Musical Arts**

**12.45, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

### **Committee attending:**

Kara Dawson (KD) (Chair), Jill Poulston (JP) (Secretary), Lynne Wilkins (LW) Treasurer, ), Jennifer Clarke (JC), Don Couling (DC), Helen Lindsay (HL) (arrived 1pm), Michael Mackinnon (MM), Doug Makinson (DM).

### **Members attending: (21)**

Zavier Boyles (ZB), Ted Cizaldo (TC), Sean Connolly (SC), Alex Davidson (AD), Jasper Davidson (JD), Pete Egli (PE), Russell Gillies (RG), Pat Higgins (PH), Tamsin Leenhouders (TL), Andy Linton (AL), Colin Magee (CM), Evey McAuliffe (EM), Steve McGlone (SM), Charlie O'Hara-Smith, (CO), Annie Pawley (AP), Salvador Delgado Oro (SO), Benjamin Preston (BP), Isobel Ross (IR), Jeanette Ware (JW), Robin Whalley (RW), Coen Willemse (CW).

### **Minutes**

The meeting started 12.50 pm.

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Previous minutes.**

Last year's AGM minutes were approved subject to the addition of the year in the date (2023). Moved by LW, seconded by PH; the vote was carried.

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Reports**

##### **3.1 Chairperson's report**

The Chair acknowledged the work of committee members: JP for taking minutes and writing the newsletter, LW for preparing the accounts and managing the finances, DM for acting as Past Chair, tutor liaison, and securing funding from various sources, DC for liaising with the pipers, MM for coordinating the tutors and VicFolk, and working on the front end of the website, and JN for also securing funding. Brendyn Montgomery and Jan Blythe of Avoca Design were also thanked for Avoca's pro bono work on the Ceol Aneas website.

This was the 25<sup>th</sup> Ceol Aneas, which (as PH explained) initially arose from a conversation between himself and Bob Bickerton some 25 years earlier. AL also mentioned an early piping tutor.

Five scholarships were awarded this year, which depleted the resource funding for further scholars until additional funding could be found. The development of young singers, players, and dancers is a vital part of Ceol Aneas, and as part of this, the VicFolk céilí band were provided with employment and accommodation.

Finally, the Chair expressed the need for Ceol Aneas to grow and develop, and her hope that it should continue as long as people wanted to play tunes. However, it was not realistic to leave the planning and running of the festival to a few volunteers each year. More committee members were needed, along with volunteers co-opted for specific tasks and projects, and ongoing funding. Registrants currently pay only 50% of their costs – the remainder comes from external funding. She explained that the committee needs help with fundraising, social media, and other general help, and asked those present to consider volunteering as a co-opted member of the committee.

Moved by JP, seconded by TC that the report be accepted; the vote was carried.

### **3.1 Treasurer's report**

LW expressed gratitude for the support she had received from the past and current chairs (DM and KD).

She presented the Performance Report, which included financial performance, position, and statement of cash flows. Highlights were the increased registrations (+17) since last year, and increased junior registrations compared to other years.

The 2022 festival was affected by covid and international border closures, which reduced costs, as local tutor only were engaged. Seed funding from the following year, 2023 was therefore around \$30,000 going into 2024.

The Treasurer recommended that registration fees should rise only with inflation, but that people were encouraged to donate.

Projects this year included establishing the new website and a new registration system that removed a lot of manual work. HL helped draw up new rules, which were yet to be discussed.

Moved by LW, seconded by KD that the report be accepted; the vote was carried.

## **4 Resignation / nomination / election of officers**

### **4.1 Resignations**

Karen Reid resigned during the year. Helen Lindsay was not standing for re-election, and Jennifer Clarke and Jill Poulston resigned before their terms were up. Both HL and JP remained available to be co-opted for specific tasks. HL had served for many years taking care of the reception desk during the festival, organising morning teas, helping with local work prior to each festival, and assisting with administration tasks such as the annual task list.

### **4.2 Expired**

Helen Lindsay, Doug Makinson, and Lynne Wilkins.

### **4.3 Continuing**

Don Couling and Kara Dawson

### **4.4 Nominations (in advance, in writing)**

Michael Mackinnon was nominated by KD and seconded by JP.

Lynne Wilkins was nominated by KD and seconded by JP.

Doug Makinson was nominated by MM and seconded by KD.

Evey McAuliffe was nominated by MM and seconded by LW.

Each nomination was put to the vote and each vote was in favour.

The addition of EM to the committee was considered a very helpful addition to the committee as she lives in Nelson and has strong links to the music community.

### **4.5 New committee and office nominations**

Lynne Wilkins was nominated as Chairperson by KD and seconded by JP.

Kara Dawson was nominated as Treasurer by LW and seconded by JP.

Don Couling was nominated as Secretary by JP and seconded by KD.

Each nomination was put to the vote and each vote was in favour.

New committee and offices: Lynne Wilkins (Chair), Don Couling (Secretary), Kara Dawson (Treasurer and Past Chair), Michael Mackinnon, Doug Makinson, and Evey McAuliffe.

## **5 Registration as an Inc Society and Rule changes**

HL explained that changes to the Incorporated Society Act meant some changes were needed to the Geol Aneas Constitution. Recommended changes were to do with mandatory clauses and eligibility for committee. LW explained the proposed changes clarify how we know who are registered members and

who maintains the register (Treasurer). A disputes clause was also required under the new legislation. The rule changes will go to the Government agency for Inc Societies, and if not approved, another AGM will be needed to approve any amendments required.

### **5.1 Ceol Aneas registers as an Inc Society**

AL asked if we should be an Inc Society, as he had not read the rule change proposal on the website or followed the link provided in a recent newsletter. LW explained that this had been considered by the committee. If we were just a Charitable Trust, we would not have an election process and membership vote, which would not suit our membership, as we would not be able to voice concerns and ideas, and participate in decision-making on an annual basis. We have dual status – Charitable Trust and Inc Society. AD asked if there were any significant changes or restrictions. LW replied no, not really; we can mould our committee to suit what we need to do and who we have available.

KD proposed we re-register as an Inc Society, TC seconded. The vote was carried.

### **5.2 The proposed rule changes**

KD proposed the rule changes as posted on the website be accepted, LW seconded. The vote was carried.

AD asked who would be appointed to be responsible for submitting changes. KD said she was.

## **6 General business**

### **6.1 Funders**

EM said she loves the website, but out of date funders' names should be removed. DM explained that Culture Ireland had not funded us this year but that their support in the previous year enabled us to continue.

### **6.2 Tutor selection**

EM asked who chooses the tutors. MM explained there is always a Tutor Subcommittee, but it was important to work with Una from National Celtic and to fit with Culture Ireland's requirement. The Subcommittee finds and proposes tutors, then brings recommendations to the main committee. Once the international tutors are selected, the other tutors are selected based on who else is needed, and available.

### **6.3 Co-opting members**

EM then asked if those not on the committee could be co-opted for jobs such as tutors selection. LW replied yes, most certainly – members should contact the committee if they can offer help. Help is needed for social media, newsletters, fund raising etc – just offer skills, we can use them!

IR spoke of how Irish music helps close the generational divide and offered help generally; LW said they could talk after the meeting, and thanked her for her offer. TC had helped with sending music files to students, and HL acknowledged the help from local people such as JW and Barrie McDonald with transfers, and SM with the céilí sound system.

### **6.4 Tune archive**

The tune archive was discussed briefly. The committee did not have the capacity to administer the archive at this time, and it did not appear to be core business for Ceol Aneas.

BP, PE, and TL left at 1.45. The meeting closed at 2.05 pm.