

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

May 15, 2025

Present: Sarah Richardson, Bernadette Johnston, Nikki Maclellan, Doug Topalovic, Sam Pritchard, Ann Neal, Gabrielle Turcotte, Jamie Kellock, Xavier Traisnel, Kaileen Millard-Ruff
Regrets: Tori Pengelly, Stephanie Shatilla

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- *Ann moved, Kaileen seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes for the OEA Board of Directors meeting of April 17, 2025.*
- *Ann moved, Bernadette seconded, and it was carried, to approve the agenda for the meeting of the OEA Board of Directors on May 15, 2025.*

2. President's Report

Given the amount of material to work through, and the lack of urgent issues to discuss, the President's Report will be omitted at this meeting.

3. Treasurer Report

- The OEA is behind on membership fees and U25 memberships in 2025 compared to 2024.
- The Lucinda Green clinic came in under budget with a balance remaining from the \$1500 set aside by the Board for lunches and refreshments.

4. Communications

- The Rider Development Days Program pages have been reworked and loaded on the website.
- The Start Times and Results pages are operational and have been reconfigured.
- The Leaderboard is up and running and will be published on the website shortly.

5. Emerging Athletes

The Bradley Mark Johnston bursaries and award sponsored by the Bradely Mark Johnston Educational Foundation were presented to the Board as follows:

- Bradley Mark Johnston Pursuit of Excellence Bursary (\$4,000): For young professionals (25 yrs and older) to help riders who are trying to make a living in the field of Eventing. Educational focus.
- Bradley Mark Johnston Working Student Bursary (\$1,000): To support educational opportunities.
- Bradley Mark Johnston “On Your Mark” Award: \$100 cash prize at each of the 19 EC sanctioned Horse Trials in Ontario this season, to the rider who comes in exactly on optimum time or comes closest without going over (\$50). The purpose of this award is to deliver a fun, inclusive and educational way to reward riders and increase awareness for bursaries.

The Foundation intends to offer the bursaries annually in perpetuity. The “On Your Mark” Award will be renewed on an annual basis. There was overwhelming appreciation demonstrated by the Board on behalf of our members for these awards.

- ***Sarah tabled a motion that the OEA agrees to implement the Bradely Mark Johnston “On Your Mark” Award, the Bradley Mark Johnston Pursuit of Excellence Bursary and the Bradely Mark Johnston Working Student Bursary, in partnership with the Bradley Mark Johnston Educational Foundation, as written.***
- ***Ann seconded. No one was opposed and the Motion passed.***

A Press Release will go out and the website will become operational so that members can begin applying as soon as the Bursaries are open.

6. Leaderboard

- The Leaderboard is well underway and is being aided by AI.
- The data from Glen Oro’s Spring Horse Trials have been entered and additional data will be added on an ongoing basis as the horse trials are run throughout the season.
- A first cut of the Leaderboard should be on the website by the end of May.
- Posting early gives the OEA a chance to hear from members and make sure that the information is accurate.
- Day memberships do not give riders access to the Leaderboard.
- Query whether Weekend warrior EV85 and EV90 high point awards could have their own leaderboard/list. It is likely these can be added. Will check registrations and confirm and when ready, can promote if we decide to go ahead with this.

7. Adult Riders

The Adult Rider Team Challenge is proposed in the same format as it ran in 2024, with \$500 set aside for Year-End Awards.

- ***Sarah tabled a motion to approve the 2025 Adult Rider Team Challenge in the same format as it was piloted in 2024 and to set aside up to \$500 to cover the cost of Year-End Awards.***
- ***Nikki seconded. No one was opposed and the Motion passed.***

The idea for a **one-day “Cross-Country Pace and Position” Clinic** was revisited to improve XC riding skills, through schooling a ‘correct’ galloping position and how to ‘feel’ pace. Riders would be divided into small groups in relatively short time slots. There was a positive discussion and overall agreement from the Board to move forward with this idea.

A further idea for a **“Year-End Clinic” to be held in September 2025** was tabled, targeted towards riders working towards the Championships or personal milestones. Purpose to engage members and help build confidence before a big event & strengthen community and friendships. The basic framework involved 20-25 riders to participate in activities in the three Eventing disciplines: Dressage test ride with feedback; Stadium course schooling; and, short XC course.

There was a consensus to explore this idea further with a little more detail to be brought back to the BOD and to be mindful of the need to avoid overlap and over-saturation of clinics, taking into account what other Committees are working on. One director noted that the OEA might want to put in place a comprehensive calendar of all OEA events.

A final idea put forward for the adult riders was the **“Winter Workout Webinar Series”**. This would be a fitness webinar (live sessions on Zoom) tailored specifically to riders and hosted by a certified personal trainer. The goal is to build community and strengthen our adult riders.

Further details on these ideas can be brought forward to the next meeting.

8. U25

- The U25 riders and parents are planning a fundraiser for the NAYC, under the supervision of Kendal Lehari in Uxbridge.
- A suggestion was tabled to hold a webinar about running FEI preparation, competition and rules to be hosted by Kendal on Tuesday, May 27. The BOD unanimously agreed to this webinar.
- Discussion of value for members of this program in addition to NAYC component included the idea of inviting “junior” members to travel with the NAYC team and grooming to be part of the community and gain experience and/or even compete in the national component.
- Suggestion to try and support U25 riders at Ontario FEI. Perhaps travel and training grants could help fund those FEI competitions. There was a brief discussion about

how to incorporate the U25s in the two Peter Gray clinics through free auditing and/or reserved spots.

- The Committee will seek out some help with fundraising and sponsorship associated with funding the U25 leaderboard and travel and training grants and would be open for someone to run fundraising for the U25 program.
- It's important that members understand that any fundraising goes directly back to them through the program.

9. Clinics

Stadium and Cross-Country Clinic with Peter Gray. Further details were put forward supporting the proposed August 5-6 Clinic with Peter Gray at Wesley Clover Parks, including the format, a budget and other information. The issue outstanding was the cancellation policy should the clinic not fill, and once those dates were determined, and aligned with the closing date of the clinic so the OEA could cancel in good time so as not to be on the hook for coaching, venue and travel expenses, in the event that the clinic didn't fill to the break-even point. There was overall support for the clinic, and it was decided that once the cancellation information was available, that it would be finalized with a motion and a vote by email.

Dressage Clinic Proposal. A director introduced the idea of hosting a "ride a test clinic" with Peter Gray on July 1. Pending the circulation of some additional information on expenses, cancellation policy and the participation of the U25 riders, it was decided that final approval would occur by email. It was noted that the OEA could not support a stadium and cross-country clinic at the venue suggested for this dressage clinic.

10. Officials and Rules

Rules.

- It was proposed that there would be a quick meeting about the proposed rule changes that were sent out once everyone had time to review them.
- Anyone interested in proposing rule changes should attend the upcoming meeting and any proposed change submissions will be circulated to the Board for approval prior to submission to EC.

Officials.

- The course builder's clinic at Grandview was cancelled because not enough people signed up. A director suggested that the OEA might organize a dads'-build-XC-jumps over the winter. It was noted that the clinician would have to be certified.
- The Official's course at Wesley Clover will run on the 18th of May.

11. Rider Development Days (formerly Schooling Days)

- The 2025 Rider Development days are now posted on the OEA website.
- Signups are coming in with 15 registered for Stevens Creek so far.

12. AMM & Awards

- It will be great for our members to have the leaderboards for the high point Awards.
- We will get social media posts up about signing up for awards where registration is necessary, for example for the Adult Rider Team Challenge.
- The AMM is fast approaching, and decisions need to be made.
- It is noted that we still don't have the Coach of the year jacket.

There was 'nothing to report' for Coaching, Organizers, and Volunteers.

13. Other Matters

- **OEA Members survey.** Survey information data has been sent to the BOD for review and a meeting will be scheduled to review the survey results. It's important to get back to members with conclusions from survey with facts and items noted so that they understand that we are listening to them. It was noted that the survey results indicate some items that are not in our control. It was noted that the motion to approve a 2025 horse trial entry for survey participation had been switched out to a Yeti travel mug. A name was drawn from the list of respondents maintained by the Secretary and the winner was Lyssa Caine, a coach. This can be announced when we report the findings and thank the members and the mug can be sent out.
- **Lucinda Green Clinic.** Some Directors discussed issues surrounding the methods and procedures surrounding choosing riders for high-visibility and other clinics. It would be useful to review these procedures for clinics to make sure that our practices are, and are seen to be, seen to be fully transparent and that they meet the needs of the clinician.
- ***Sam tabled a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm.***
- ***Sarah seconded. No one was opposed and the Motion passed.***