

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

July 10, 2025

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

Regrets: Jamie Kellock, Nikki Maclellan

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- *Sarah Richardson moved, Sam Pritchard seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes for the OEA Board of Directors meeting of June 19 2025.*
- *Sarah Richardson moved, Stephanie Shatilla seconded, and it was carried, to approve the agenda for the meeting of the OEA Board of Directors on July 10, 2025.*

2. President's Report

The President advised that Wit's End have sadly been flooded out and are underwater currently due to a storm. They are assessing the damage and will see if they are able to run the event.

The President advised that the Board will discuss OEA membership fees and assess proposed changes. The OEA has not increased its membership fees for at least 5 years. The Treasurer will present a report on this in the Treasurer's Report.

The President advised the organizer of The Pony Club Regional Rally asked for a donation prize for their closest to the optimum time award at their 2025 Regional Rally. The benefits of The Pony Club and our relationship with it, was discussed.

Motion to provide a prize at the 2025 Regional Pony Club Rally Event at Wits End on Sunday, August 31, 2025. A motion was tabled by Sarah Richardson, seconded by Stephanie Shatilla, and approved by the Board to set aside \$38.00 to provide a complementary OEA Junior membership for 2026 to the rider who comes in 'closest to the optimum time' among the C category riders (C1, C2 and C3 are equivalent to EV85, EV90 and EV100) in the Cross-Country phase at the 2025 Regional Pony Club Rally Event being held at Wits End on Sunday, August 31, 2025.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to the fact that the OEA needs to increase membership fees or, by 2028, we will not be able to fund our programs at current levels. A slate of new membership fees was proposed and discussed.

A motion was tabled by Bernadette Johnston, seconded by Sarah Richardson and approved by the Board, to raise membership fees starting in 2026, as follows:

	2025	2026
Junior	\$ 25.00	\$ 38.00
Senior	\$ 53.00	\$ 68.00
Family	\$126.00	\$150.00
Associate	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00

- It was further decided that the OEA's day membership fee should be revisited and that this will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Stevens Creek Rider Development Day was a success. It came in under budget and the OEA covered the costs for three coaches for the day.
- There was a change to the budget due to the approval of the payment to Kendal Lehari for her role at the NAYC, and also a correction and update to the Lucinda Green Clinic final reconciliation.

4. Communications. Doug has been posting start times and cross-country maps for events as they happen.

5. Emerging Athletes. The OEA has received 11 applications for first annual Bradley Mark Johnston Pursuit of Excellence Bursary, which are currently being assessed.

6. Leaderboard. There was no news to report with respect to the Leaderboard, which has been running smoothly and is being kept up-to-date this season.

7. Adult Riders. The Adult rider team challenge leaderboard is ready to be posted. Four teams and one individual have registered to date.

8. U25. A director presented a proposal for a U25 mentorship program with further details to be worked out in the coming weeks.

Motion to Establish a U25 NAYC Rider Identification and Mentorship Program. A motion was tabled by Samantha Pritchard, seconded by Sarah Richardson and approved by the Board, for the OEA to establish a formal U25 NAYC Rider Identification and Mentorship Program beginning in the 2025 season, with the goal of supporting Ontario athletes in their development and qualification for the 2026 North American Youth Championships (NAYC), and in preparation for building future teams for 2027 and 2028.

Ian Roberts has offered to donate his time and lead a course walk for U25 riders at the Glen Oro FEI Horse Trials in August.

9. Clinics

OEA Stadium Jumping and Cross-Country Clinic with Peter Gray at Wesley Clover Parks, August 5-6, 2025. The Peter Gray clinic at Wesley Clover Parks has been open for a

little over a month and has attracted 10 paid up OEA members. The original motion that was approved by email limited the clinic to OEA members. There are now a few ex-OEA members who have expressed interest in joining. This could be a great opportunity to encourage these adult riders to return to Eventing. Accepting them in the clinic would also help ensure that it will run for the benefit of the OEA members who have already signed up.

A motion was put forward by Sam Pritchard and seconded by Xavier Traisnel to open the two-day OEA & U25 Stadium Jumping and Cross-Country Clinic with Peter Gray to be held on August 5-6 at Wesley Clover Parks (approved by email on Monday, May 26, 2025) to non-OEA members. OEA members will continue to have precedence over non-OEA members where space is at a premium. The motion was approved.

10. Officials and Rules

Officials. The OEA has gone over budget slightly for officials' bursaries in 2025 and therefore applications have been closed for the remainder of the season. In 2025, bursaries were awarded on a first come-first served. The committee will reassess the process for awarding officials' bursaries for 2026.

11. Rider Development Days. It was reported that 25 riders were signed up for the Glenarden Development Day on 23 July, 2025.

12. AMM & Awards

Motion to set aside funding for the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members and Year-End Awards. *A motion was tabled by Sarah Richardson, seconded by Bernadette Johnston and approved by the Board, to set aside up to \$5,000 to cover the costs of hosting an Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, November 8 at the Royal Winter Fair using a format similar to the 2024 AMM. The estimated breakdown in the budget is based on a modest increase from 2024 costs and includes \$1,300 for the room rental, \$3,500 for coffee/tea and a catered sandwich luncheon, and \$200 for miscellaneous administrative costs and AV support.*

13. Other Matters

- One director suggested that the OEA compile a database with stabling options for horse trials for those who want to stable when the organizer does not offer stabling on site.
- The issue of OEA clinic refund policies was raised and it was decided that it would be tabled at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by Sarah Richardson, seconded by Samantha Pritchard.