

Ottawa English Country  
Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, June 22nd, 2025 VIA ZOOM  
Minutes of meeting based on the Agenda

19:33: 13 in attendance

1. Approval of the agenda

Proposed Sue H, Sec. Jennifer C, approved *nem con*

2. Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2024

Proposed Graham, Mary W second approved *nem con*

3. Business arising

President's Report: .....Mary Shleifman

Report attached

Financial report: .....John Nash.

Report attached.

TTO 2024 report: .....Mary Williams

Report attached

TTO 2025 report: .....Mary Williams

Report attached

4. Matters arising

A. Proposal to leave membership fees the same and see if our Hall's rent rate changes in January, 2026.

B. Covid restrictions - Follow Ottawa public health guidelines

C. To invite more members to volunteer

D. We need artistic director to take on TTO and special events

5. Election of officers for the coming season with hope.

Executive officers for years 2025 2026:

President.....Mary Shleifman

Vice President.....Mary Williams

Wiki master.....John Nash

Treasurer..... John Nash, Graham Thompson and Christine Hinchley

Secretary.....Mary Nash

Web Master.....Graham Thompson

Publicity.....?

Artistic Director.....?

TTO Ball chair.....Mary Williams

Members at large.....David Shleifman

Specific Volunteer Roles - is everyone willing to carry on?

Registration of Members.....Graham Thompson

Caller organization/roster maker.....Mary Williams

Refreshments.....?

Librarian (CDs, instructions, scores.....John Nash

Teachers for Beginners.....Graham Thompson

Board and easel, record of dances.....Graham Thompson

Amplifier and mic pack.....Graham Thompson

Club computer and amplifier.....David Shleifman

Hall booker..... Mary Shleifman

Brochure production.....?

Band liaison.....?

Publicity and Facebook.....Suzanne Sakaluk

6. Other business:

A. Secretary for executive meetings.

Other?

Callers:

Mary Williams, John Nash, Jamie Hargrove, Mary Shleifman

Band: ?

7. Adjournment. Approx 20:20

Proposed: JN, Sec. Mandy

## President's Report (Mary Shleifman)

1. We had an excellent year and now we are 33 (regular) members. There are also some part-timers.
2. We started Tuesday and (free) Wednesday Dances and welcomed new dancers and some old lost in time ones. Each group had at least 15 dancers.
3. Membership fees will be reviewed later when we will know what the rent will be.
4. Golden badges will be made at the beginning of the season for everyone new who danced with us in previous season and paid in new season. Please hold on to your badges. If anyone needs a replacement after losing one, please notify me.
5. After Jacqui's research (thank you Jacqui) it was decided to stay with CDSS
6. We need Artistic Director to take on TTO and Special Dances
7. We need someone to help to choose new equipment
8. We need someone to take on Facebook account
9. We are planning couple of Special Dances with a band.

I'm waiting for Milan to respond.

Welcome back dance -	first Friday in September
TTO in November	Nov 7&8 (I don't know about this one)
Christmas Dance	at the end of December
Spring Dance	last Friday in March
Last Dance of the year -	last Friday in May

Last thing, if anyone wants to be reimbursed by the club like me (I'm paying rent, buying badges, business cards and flyers) please make sure our Financial department (John Nash and/or Christine Hinchley) knows what's going on.

## Financial Report for Ottawa English Dance at 2025-05-31

Account Name	Debit	Credit
<b>Assets</b>		
TD Bank Acct		13,493.45
Receivable		
Payable		

### **Income (regular)**

Dance Receipts	3,335.00
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*This includes all Friday and Tuesday amounts. On Friday we had 33 fully paid plus 14 partial amount. On Tuesday 20 people paid. Also includes approx. \$350 for May 30.*

### **TTO**

Donations ( <i>unclaimed TTO refunds offered</i> )	40.00
TTO Dance Receipts	5,267.99
TTO Other Income	
TTO Bank Charges	11.75
TTO Expense	3,591.36

### **Regular expenses**

Bank Charges (non TTO)	10.50
Hall Rental (exc TTO)	1,409.17
Misc Expense (exc TTO)	338.39
Prepaid Expenses	98.23
Music and Materials Expense (see Note below)	
Web Site Expense (prepaid to June 2028 approx \$300/year)	
Special Events	605.02

*This includes badges, "business" cards, and CDSS Affiliate fee (US\$100).*

*May 30, 2025: Includes \$300 for musicians, rest is food and drink. Omits about \$18 for extra hall time as disentangling City bill is difficult.*

Net Worth (Total Net Assets) == TD Bank Balance (13,495.45)  
*At start of fiscal period was 10,914.88*

### Notes:

- 1) All cash balances for members handling money are zero.
- 2) We are no longer using the Special Projects Fund account
- 3) Our equipment / music expense has been small, but we should fairly urgently establish a small committee or committees to research and recommend:
  - a new hands-free microphone
  - a new computer to play music. Note that keyboard operations are more efficient ("hit the Z key") than pointers for starting music, but not necessarily for selection. It would be useful to have a "remote" that can start and stop music and change volume and possibly tempo, but availability of appropriate tool is in question.
  - possibly a new speaker (due to weight of existing ones)
- 4) Should we review the value of our CDSS Affiliation? That is, do we get \$140 value from it?

## Treasurer's Report

We are remaining solvent and able to operate weekly dances easily, despite increasing costs. Recently we have expanded to essentially a second session per week via biweekly Wednesday afternoon and Tuesday evening sessions. Some of our expense items have been prepaid, but our music and equipment assets are aging.

Our special event at the end of May was organized at a time when we were dealing with Mlacak repair closure, midweek dances, and possible summer dancing. There was some confusion over budget and we spent more than we took in, but the event went well.

The main concerns of the Treasurer are :

- orderly planning and spending.
- clear indications to members that the yearly fee will not cover special events.

**Recommendation:** in advertising the fee for dancing, note that there will be up to n (say  $n=3$ ) special events for which extra fees will be charged. As we seem to enjoy such events (these are apart from the TTO), this is a matter of transparency, not cost.

We more than covered our costs on TTO again. Compared to other groups we have been most fortunate over the years. The concerns for the Treasurer are to know, well in advance, what payment amounts are to be expected and when they need payment, and the general way the income estimate is developed.

John Nash / Christine Hinchley

## **Report for Trip To Ottawa 2024**

Caller: Jamie Hargrove

Musicians: Les Trois Patates with Jonathan Werk as lead musicians

Denise Blais from the Montreal Club offered a workshop of challenging new dances, which was well attended.

Jamie Hargrove offered a workshop on “Early Playford”, which was well attended. It was well researched and most dances were new to the group.

The group supper was held at the Clocktower Brew Pub. There was a wait to be seated, but the food was served efficiently and the group was able to return to the hall in good time.

Thanks to the Contra Club and artistic club members, the hall was decorated beautifully and the Ball was much enjoyed.

The event made a modest profit.

Comments from the participants were mostly appreciative and positive.

Submitted by: Mary Williams

## **REPORT FOR FORTHCOMING TTO 2025**

As numbers are slowly increasing, a new format has been scheduled.

Friday evening: Ball Review

Saturday morning: Workshop with Denise Blais

Saturday afternoon: No event. Setup by the musicians and decorators.

Saturday late afternoon: Group supper

Saturday evening: Ball

Sunday morning: Breakfast and Good-bye Dance

Caller: Jamie Hargrove

Musicians: Ian Clark, Greg Brown and Ann Downy. To be known as Gregannian Chant.

In August, a “Save the Date” email will be sent to all past participants and club members.

A TTO Planning Team meeting will be held to assign volunteer roles and address details, including the budget.

Submitted by: Mary Williams