

Ottawa English country dance club, Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 26th, 2019, held at Orange Hall, 41 Rosemount Ave, called to order by President Mary Shleifman at 7:20 p.m.

1. Agenda was presented.
2. Approval of the agenda- approved as submitted. M Suzanne Sakalak/S Sue Hogg
3. Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2018- Approved as presented M John Nash/S Joe Walker
4. Business arising from minutes -

President's Report: Mary Shleifman- as attached.

Treasurer's report: Mei Wun /Edward Hearn, on website. M J. Nash/S Michelle Sutherland

TTO 2018 report: Mary Williams, as attached.

TTO 2019 report: Mary Williams, as attached.

Artistic Director's report- June Harman, as attached.

5. Items for discussion to help the executive make the right decision for the club:

Teaching: Michelle Sutherland had great success with 'Edward's Hour' for new and returning members and is willing to continue teaching next year.

Edward's Hour will continue for 6 weeks in the fall and 6 weeks in the winter.

Mission Statement:

After reading two examples to the audience, the one below was accepted unanimously.

***'Keeping history alive through traditional music and dance. For beginners and seasoned dancers to meet, learn and experience new routines in a welcoming and friendly society.'***

Name badges: Samples of metal badges were shown. The gold one was accepted and members will receive one free of charge if their membership is fully paid by the end of Sept. 2019.

Badges for the Ball can be ordered in Staples about \$2.50 a piece.

Wendy is familiar with the process and volunteers to produce them. Some people will receive their badges from the recycled ones.

Membership fees – it was suggested that these rise from \$60 per year to \$70 per year. Moved by Michelle S., seconded by Joey Walker.

6. Election of officers for the coming season.

Executive for 2019-2020

President.....Mary Shleifman

Vice President.....Mary Williams

Wiki master.....John Nash

Treasurer..... Mei and Edward

Secretary.....Mary Nash

Web Master.....Graham Thompson

Publicity.....Antonia Morton and Joey Walker

Artistic Director.....June Harman

TTO Ball chair..... Mary Williams

Members at large..... David Shleifman

Specific Volunteer Roles - Everyone was willing to carry on and two positions were filled.

Registration of Members.....Antonia Morton and Joey Walker

Caller organization/roster maker.....Sara Lawson and Michelle Sutherland

Refreshments.....Edward, Andrew and Robert

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

Teachers for Beginners.....Michelle Sutherland

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

Amplifier and mic pack.....Graham Thompson

Club computer and amplifier.....David Shleifman

Hall booker.....Mary Williams

Brochure production.....June Harman

Band liaison..... June Harman

#### Callers

Mary Williams, Sara Lawson (retiring from Mlacak), John Nash, June Harman, Jamie Hargrove, Greg Reynolds (Orange Hall only); Mary Shleifman, Michelle Sutherland.

#### Bands

The Playford Players, Quite Carried Away

#### 7. Any Other Business

Paid callers- after some discussion it was decided to try a donation box for one year. Proceeds to be shared by all callers on a particular evening.

## 8. Adjournment-Moved by John Nash

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nash, Secretary

### **Addenda**

President's Report, 2018-19

We had a good year. Membership is up in Mlacak center and Orange Hall

Club celebrated 35 years of existence

**Orange Hall** We have an opportunity to change a venue. Club leased Assembly Hall in McNabb CC for two summer months with option of renewing the lease in the middle of August, if we liked the place. Orange Hall has bad acoustics, creaking floors and getting too small for our needs. On the other hand, Assembly Hall bigger and cheaper. This is pending an approval. Members are urged to try new venue and donate \$5 for the rent, since our club won't cover it.

**Club Music and Dance Resources:** John Nash is our librarian and take care of research and purchase of new materials (CDs, dance instructions, and music scores), and the distribution to callers and musicians. Currently, our library lives in the Nash house. We have Irfona's fund to cover these purchases. When fund's money runs out, club will pay for all future purchases. We are looking for volunteers to help John Nash.

**The Wiki dance instructions:** Ongoing need to keep this resource updated. Callers have the primary responsibility but someone with an interest in this could monitor the list for dance titles that don't yet have instructions.

### **Caller recognition**

Since there is no financial recompense, it is requested that a picture and a short bio (in the 1st person) of each caller be posted on the website. Brenda will send out a questionnaire to assist in the creation of these bios, which she will then edit for the website.

**Publicity:** Ongoing need to find a ways to inform larger world of our existence. Last year I was leaving our brochures in Kanata's two libraries. Printing our ad in the paper proved to be impossible.

**Name badges:** There are samples of metal badges for all full paid members. The proposal is to provide the first badge with no charge and collect \$7.55 for the replacement. The badge cost as follow: magnet cost \$1.55 badge \$6.00 for up to 4 pieces.

Badges for the Ball can be ordered in Staples about \$2.50 a piece.

I understand, that Wendy is familiar with the process and volunteers to order them.

**Membership Fees:** Because of Mlacak's shortfall, it was recommended that the annual fees for Mlacak CC be raised from \$60 to \$70. As for Wednesday night dance, if we stay in Orange Hall - fees ought to go up to \$70 or more. In case we find Assembly Hall in McNabb CC suitable, membership fees can go down to \$50 or lower a year.

Mary S

Financial Report- on the website of the club

## OTTAWA ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### REPORT ON Trip to Ottawa (TTO) 2018

TTO 2018 was a great success, despite the tragedy of Godfrey's illness and death, which left the planning team without a registrar, treasurer and chairperson. The team and others pulled together to deal with the final details and confirm registrations and payments had been made. 100 people attended the various events of the weekend.

The participants were unaware of the background panic and the caller, Joanne Reiner-Wilkinson and the band, Karen Axelrod, Eric Martin and Anna Patton were much enjoyed and appreciated.

Because of the high number of registrants and the low travel costs of the band, the event made a profit of \$ 4325 It is recommended that this money might subsidize a dance weekend in the future with even larger appeal in music and calling.

My sincere thanks to the planning team for taking over the work in the unexpected circumstances.  
Submitted by Mary Williams, June 26, 2019

## OTTAWA ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### TTO 2019: REPORT FOR AGM

Caller and band are confirmed and we are working on the finer details.

Judi Rivkin will be the caller and by popular demand, Karen Axelrod, Eric Martina and Anna Patton will return to play their music. Anna will lead a musicians' workshop as this was found to be beneficial in 2018. Judi will join a lunch for callers and potential callers and the subject is yet to be finalized.

The budget is looking healthy although not finalized as travel costs are not completely certain but we expect to have excess money again this year. Again, we hope we can use this money to plan a weekend in the future involving internationally-renowned caller and musicians.

We are using the on-line registration system once more, devised by Graham and it is proving very efficient with helpful reporting. Club members have been invited to register early and registration will be open to everyone on August 1. We shall limit the numbers to each event to ensure that everyone has a comfortable dancing space.

Every member of the club has supported this event in one way or another and if you would like a specific role, please let me know.

Submitted by Mary Williams. June 26, 2019

## **Artistic Director Report by June Harman**

### **My responsibilities are:**

Scheduling local bands - Playford Players and QCA

In the case of QCA, I attend their practices and advise them on tempo, matching tunes to the dances, etc...

I Schedule out of town callers and bands to broaden our dancers' experience and add interest and variety to our year.

I host ball preparation events where good technique and style are also worked on.

At Friday dances we have become accustomed to putting dots beside favoured dances. This helps callers when planning their programs but also gives the dancers a voice - I encourage callers to notice these votes.

### **questions for the membership:**

1) I need feedback on the dance-of-the-month that we have been trying, once again, to practice at our Friday dances. Not always successfully.

Dancers - do you like a dance every Friday of the month?

Assuming you attend regularly, is it helpful to learn one dance thoroughly?

Or, do you find it boring, or you just don't care?

2) Approval of out of town callers and band on Fridays

Oct 18 The band 'Mavish' playing for local caller(s)

April 3 caller Gaye Fifer - current president of CDSS

May 1 caller Lisa Greenleaf - excellent caller.

### **A proposal for paying some Friday callers.**

Your membership pays for Hall rental, and payment to local bands.

Historically, callers and all others who do work for OECD are not paid.

3 callers (June, Michelle, and Jaime) want to be paid for their work, there have been many emails and meetings about this issue.

Many options have been discussed but only one seems acceptable, more or less, to all.

I propose that we follow the example of the Scottish country dancers, as explained by Greg Reynolds. Dancers donate money to pay the caller, into a box at the dance. A suggest range \$2-\$5. It isn't recorded or tracked by the treasurer, causing no extra work. Proposal accepted.

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