



ECSCA – FTC

At Large Members –

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East Region Rep – Ted McCue – tedjmccue@gmail.com

Central Region Rep- Susan Sarracino-Deihl – saracen@rr.wi.com

West Region Rep & Chair – Cheryl Dooley – dooleytess@gmail.com

ECSCA Field Trial Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Call to Order- Cheryl Dooley called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm CST.

Present – John Alstad, Ron Bullock, Jack Glinsky, Ted McCue, David Williams & Cheryl Dooley.

Minutes from April 19, 2022- The minutes from the April FTC meeting were approved via email by the 2022 FTC and circulated to Cocker Owners via email.

Agenda: An agenda was emailed to the FTC in advance.

Jack made a motion to accept agenda as written. Ron seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

U-Tube Video: The FTC recently sent a link on Field Trialing, Scenting and Using the Wind. Holly Boggess was contacted for more educational videos and sent one on Bird Planting.

Bird Planting Video:

<https://youtu.be/5Zkw0PyMixA>

Future NCC Locations:

2023 NCC (West Region) –The ECSCA Board has approved the Texas location for the NCC 2023 with the local Houston Spaniel Club. Co-Chairs: Bob Iversen and Robert Clayton. The Houston Club has submitted a proposed budget but will edit that document after the 2022 NCC- Illinois.

NACC Fundraising: For past NACC Trials, pennants and banners have been sold to raise money to cover expenses. Cheryl reported the cost this year has increased.

Pennants - \$7.50 each

Banners 2' x 4' - 28.00

Banners 3' x 2' - \$21.00

It is up to the North Dakota Committee if they choose to sell these items as part of their fundraising efforts.

Update on 2023 NCC Judge Selection: Cheryl reported the letters to Judges went out April 15, 2022. Letters need to be postmarked by June 3, 2022. After that time, a Preliminary Ballot will be generated. Voting dogs will receive a ballot shortly thereafter.

Budgets for 2021 NACC and NCC: Ted asked if we have yet received the final budget information for the 2021 Nationals. That info has not been received, but an effort will be made to contact the ECSCA- Treasurer and President.

NEW BUSINESS:

FTC Meeting at 2022 NACC – North Dakota: It has been suggested that as the FTC holds a General Meeting at NCC Trials, there should also be a meeting held at the NACC. This would allow Amateur Handlers in attendance an opportunity to voice their opinions on Amateur Stakes and the NACC.

Cheryl has been in contact with the North Dakota Club to determine when such a meeting could take place. Jon Hunke (Chair) and Jamie Mowder (Secretary) will let the FTC know what will fit their schedule.

A question arose regarding the FTC discussing and making a decision on the 2023 NACC prior to the 2022 NACC- North Dakota. It was pointed out in a previous meeting the FTC voted to hold off any decision until after the 2022 NACC- North Dakota.

A brief discussion around future NACC's took place. Again, key points discussed included when to hold a NACC (spring vs fall), whether to schedule the NACC yearly or every other year, would it be better to hold the NACC at a Central locations, holding the NACC at the same location and a couple days after the NCC, etc. No conclusion was reached in terms of a 2023 NACC, but the FTC was encouraged to keep weighing pros and cons.

It was suggested a meeting at the NACC would be polling a 'stacked deck'. It might be best to ask the ENTIRE Cocker field for the betterment of the breed. It was then suggested this subject also be placed on the agenda for the NCC General Meeting so more people will be polled.

It was also suggested the date being a week away from the OPEN date will affect attendance at the NCC.

It was mentioned that the FTC decision to allow Amateurs placing in an OPEN stake to qualify for the NACC has been controversial. It was suggested that decision might have been received better if a survey had been conducted. It was mentioned that in the interest of time, the FTC made the decision so Folks could plan their Trial schedules. It was also mentioned that the number of Amateur stakes and entries has increased from 2021.

Again, it was suggested a survey be sent asking for input from Cocker Handlers/Owners regarding the NACC.

A survey had been sent in 2020. Conclusions from the survey were difficult and since then it has been suggested to conduct another survey but only allow Amateur Handlers or Amateurs who have entered an Amateur stake.

Cheryl indicated she would send a copy of the previous survey to the FTC Members so Folks could ponder potentially re-doing the survey with revised questions that will help the FTC assess National Amateur stakes. The survey results can also be found on fieldcocker.com.

Gunning Expenses at National Trials: It was brought to the FTC's attention that Gunning expenses are becoming one of the largest expenses for a National Trial. Traditionally, the National Committee receives a donation for \$2500 for the Gun Team. However, the expenses for the Gun Team are \$5000. This puts a burden on fundraising effort.

It was pointed out that throughout the spring and fall trial seasons Gunners are kind to attend trials with travel expenses coming out of their own pocketbooks and donating their free time. Thus, it would seem, that providing them with lodging, food and a gift for the National trial seems reasonable.

It was noted that each National Committee has the option to provide whatever perks they choose to provide. But, they need to be aware of costs and determine if they are able to cutback expenses elsewhere or possibly considering raising entry fees.

National Fundraising: The FTC received an email prior to the meeting about the difficulties we face when trying to fundraise for a National Trial. Ted suggested a Calcutta as a way to perhaps raise money in a fun way. The suggestion is well taken but it will be necessary to investigate the legality. Gaming laws have changed for fundraising and the ECSCA will expect the National Committee to abide by those laws. Cheryl will check with the ECSCA and determine if a Calcutta would be allowed. It was noted that the expenses for a National Trial are around \$50,000. Only half of that is from entry fees, making it necessary to raise \$25,000, a chore that is getting more difficult.

The FTC Members were encouraged to think of any ideas they feel might help fund the expenses.

Bixby Award: The FTC has received, to date, one nomination for the Bixby Award. FTC Members were encouraged to seek out additional nominations. The FTC will need nominations and bios sometime in late June or early July. A decision on the Award will take place at the July meeting.

English Cocker Spaniel – Junior Hunter Retriever - Susan Sarracino-Deihl

Susan was unable to attend the meeting this evening. This topic will be moved to the June agenda.

Potential Change in Springer Judge Criteria: Ron reported that the Springer World proposed and passed to change Judge Criteria. He stated once word leaked out, there was some backlash and they then chose to do a survey. Ron provided the FTC with the link for the survey.

It was noted that if a Judge is a Cocker Judge and wants to be a Springer Judge they would not be eligible unless they campaign a springer.

There was significant discussion around why Cocker Judges are not able to judge Springers, but Springer Judges are allowed to judge Cockers. And, it was noted that with the increase of sequential Springer/Cocker trials Cockers are almost always being judged by Springer Judges and running in Springer cover.

Ron explained the third week of August will be when the final decision is made. A

question arose as to whether there would be someone present at the meeting to sound off about the Cocker side.

Adjournment - Hearing no comments to address or any other issues this evening, Cheryl requested a motion to adjourn. Dave made a motion to adjourn. Jack seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM (CST)

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Dooley – FTC Chair

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 5:30 pm (CST)

Respectfully submitted – Cheryl Dooley