

ECSCA FTC MINUTES – Annual Meeting – October 26, 2011

Present: Buzz Benson (Chair/At-Large), John Dartt (At-Large), Dennis Joannides (At-Large), Olivia Steele-Mortimer (West), Sue Wilson (South), and Kim Wiley (Mid-West). **Absent:** Terry Oliver (East)

This was an “Open” meeting held prior to the NCC Welcome Dinner with ECSCA members and NCC participants in attendance.

FTC Committee 2011 – Buzz Benson

Buzz Benson introduced the FTC Committee members and outlined the evening’s agenda.

Alternate Judges for an NCC – Buzz Benson

A group discussion pointed out that in the nine (9) year history of the current NCC event that an alternate judge had to be used on three (3) occasions (Montana, North Dakota and Michigan). AKC Rep, Tom Meyer, stated that, to his knowledge, this has not happened once in the current history of the Springer Open National.

This discussion highlighted the necessity for having a standardized criterion to be used in the selection of an alternate NCC judge. Buzz stated that developing a criterion would be a top priority for the FTC in 2012. Olivia Steele-Mortimer felt that when nominated, a judge should agree to act as an alternate, but that he/she should not be required to attend the NCC event if votes placed him/her in the alternate position. Susan Sarracino-Deihl suggested that if a judging assignment change was required, that an entrant should be able to request and receive a refund of their entry fee.

Amateur National & Amateur Qualified Dogs Eligible for NCC

There was an animated discussion on the topic of an Amateur National and amateur placing dogs being eligible for the NCC. A few of the suggestions regarding an Amateur National were: 1) ask AKC to let us have one Amateur National and see how it goes. 2) Set a date and entries will follow. 3) Amateur stakes may be declining for a reason. This should be looked into?

Some of the points highlighted regarding amateur qualified dogs being eligible for the NCC were: 1) NCC is prestigious, requiring at least an Open placement to qualify, and should remain so. 2) Somebody with less experience, such as an amateur, or his or her dog, who has only placed in an amateur stake, might prove distracting when running as a brace mate in an NCC event. 3) This might take away from entries in open stakes, if people who are only trying to qualify for the NCC, should end up entering only amateur stakes instead of open stakes.

Tom Meyer explained that from the AKC perspective that the “quantity and quality” of amateur stakes was just not there. He found it disappointing that amateur stakes didn’t mean as much as open stakes, and he suggested we shouldn’t “dumb down” the amateur stakes. He suggested if the amateur stakes were run with the same “standards of judging” as open stakes then it might be possible to have placing dogs qualify for the NCC.

On a separate issue, it was suggested that as a means to growing field trials both numerically and geographically that we might consider shortening the eligibility period to two (2) years for dogs qualified for the NCC event.

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Scheduling & Planning – Buzz Benson

In an effort to streamline the field trial calendar and eliminate confusion, Buzz encouraged clubs to set trial dates one (1) year out and not change dates around.

Hall of Fame – Dennis Joannides

Dennis introduced the Hall of Fame Committee and distributed a handout, which acknowledged the current Founders who have donated a total of \$43,000 thus far, and explained the different donation levels. An additional \$22,000 is needed to meet our initial funding goal of \$65,000 and the handout included a donor's form for those wishing to contribute.

Terry Reckard was asked to share his experience when he visited the Field Trial Hall of Fame at the National Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, TN. He spoke of its quality and what a wonderful way to preserve the legacy of our sport. Tom Meyer also expressed his support of the museum and its grounds.

Dennis reviewed the selection criteria under discussion for dogs and people, and explained that there would be no inductees until the criterion was finalized. The committee is also discussing how best to set up our area at the museum.

The meeting was adjourned and followed by dinner.

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Wilson
Secretary