

**English Cocker Spaniel Club of America**  
**Field Trial Committee**

Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 17, 2016  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Members Present: Deb Strohl, Mike Schroeder, Keith Meissner, Pete Rizzo, Dennis Joannides,  
Terry Reckart, Vicky Thomas Gunning Committee Members: Tom Calabrese, John Leininger,  
Dave Barto

- I. Call to order:
- II. Approval of Minutes:
- III. Approval of the agenda:
- IV. Unfinished Business:
  - A. **Gun Committee:** The FTC along with Tom Calabrese, John Leininger and Dave Barto reviewed potential changes to the English Cocker Gunning Program. It was suggested we change the term for a Gunning Committee member from 10 years to something less. The requirement for the gun captain to send a written report to the Gunning Chairman was eliminated due to being an administrative burden and not providing useful information. We discussed the reason or benefit of having approved guns hold a Hunting License/Hunter Safety Course in their respective states. It was recommended that we include this as a suggestion and not necessarily as a rule as states vary on hunting license requirements. It was also suggested that we remove the section that states Gunners have to sign a Job Description form as it causes unnecessary paperwork and we don't have the staff to follow through with this requirement. We also agreed to eliminate gun certification documents and maintaining gunning list (the Springers maintain a list of guns so it would be a double list of guns that is not necessary). It was decided that the FTC should have an annual meeting with the Gunning Committee. This will ensure that there is communication between the FTC and the Gunning Committee each year.
  - B. **Selection of NCC guns:** John felt that we need to place at least 1 gun from each region on the NCC gunning committee. He also stated a Gun needs to know and be responsible for the guns on his team. If he doesn't know or have knowledge of guns on his team it makes it hard for him to be responsible for the gun team. Mike felt that there is no review as to who will be on the gun team and what regions they represent. John thought that we should have more trust or faith in the Gun Captain for the NCC. Dave stated that if the Gunning Committee has to pick 2 or 3 guns from each region they will most likely pick the same guns each year. If the clubs pick the guns and submit them to the gun committee, then

those 20 or so guns can be vetted by the Gunning Committee and by the FTC. Dave and John both felt that a gun team needs to be able to work together as a team and be able to rely on each other. There was a lengthy discussion as to an NCC having 2 Gun Captains and 2 teams of guns. Terry made a motion and Mike seconded it to have two gun Captains for the NCC. A vote was taken and it passed 6 to 1, Mike Schroeder was the only dissenting vote. A poll of the committee was taken and it was unanimous that the FTC adopt new criteria for the selection of NCC guns.

There was a discussion of how to select the regional gunning committee members. Vicky felt that this should be the FTC's responsibility as it is an ECSCA event that falls under the FTC. John stated that it should be the Gunning Committee Chairman's responsibility. It was decided that the FTC would choose the new regional Gunning Committee members with input from the current Gunning Committee and its Chairman. Vicky stated that we are not getting advanced enough proposals from the NCC chairperson as to the Gun Captain selection for the event. We discussed requiring the gun captains recommended by the NCC chair receive final approval from the FTC before selecting their gun teams. Deb also suggested that photos of the NCC guns and gun captain along with a short bio for each be sent to the FTC chair in time for publishing in the NCC catalogue.

- C. NCC: Kansas The 2017 Colorado NCC has been canceled. Grounds were not attainable due to conflicts with the Colorado hunting season. Dominique Savoie will be presenting a proposal for the 2017 NCC in Kansas. The Bramwells have made their 600 acre ranch available to use for the 2017 NCC. They have hosted several different Springer Nationals. The grounds are a large amount of rolling grassland. Trees have been planted and will make an excellent woods course, although it will be different from our typical NCC hardwood course. There will be no use of personal ATV's on the grounds. Dog shuttles will be permitted on the grounds. There is a banquet room on the grounds that can be used for meetings etc. The FTC would like to thank the Bramwells for the generous use of their property.

Deb is working with Chris Dartt on the 2016 NCC budget and will have that budget submitted to the FTC.

Deb would like to see a memorial page added to the NCC Catalog. This would be a good opportunity for people to memorialize a field trial dog that had passed away. There would be a cost associated with it. Deb will continue to work on this idea and finalize it. An obituary for dogs would be something that could also help preserve our history. It would make for interesting reading at the NCC as well as producing some revenue for the NCC. Dennis stated that the Hall of Fame has a memorial program where an entry brick can be purchased and engraved for \$100. It will be placed on the path to the entryway for the Hall of Fame and is considered a donation to the Bird Dog Museum. Also, the English Cocker Field Trial Hall of Fame has created a Wall of Champions where an amateur or open all age field champion, whether living or deceased, can be memorialized on a plaque that will be hung in the Cocker space. The cost is \$100 per name and helps fund the Cocker space at the bird dog museum.

D. Judges List: Attached update (FYI only)

V. New Business:

1. Getting someone to edit minutes/ Vicky will be out of town. Dennis, Terry and Deb will review and edit the minutes and revised Gunning Program. Deb will distribute the minutes.
2. Creating a test for the Cocker Judging Seminar?      Tabled till the next meeting
3. Hall of Fame—Tabled til next meeting

VI. Adjournment – Next FTC Meeting June 14th, 2016 8:00 pm EST