

FTC Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday October 20, 2009  
7 P.M. Central Time

Present via telephone conference call: Tom Calabrese, Tony Roettger, Dede Griffin, Sue Wilson, Hobson Brown, A.R. Ginn, Buzz Benson, Olivia Steele-Mortimer. Guest: Sue Rose

Agenda:

1. Bixby award
2. NCC General Meeting Agenda
3. Amateur Nationals Pathway
4. NCC 2010 voting
5. Judge NCC concept
6. Game Conservation Concept
7. Other Stuff

Tom Calabrese requested each committee member to bring forward nominations for the Bixby Award. Tom requested names to be forwarded to him. Tom will then send the list of nominees to the committee for consideration.

Discussion about the Bixby Award and what it represents followed. Hob Brown commented the award should be awarded to an outstanding person that has contributed in an outstanding way to the Cocker world. Discussion followed talking about not just giving it out to give it out. The Bixby Award is special and should go to a person who stands out from the crowd. The award as it stands is given out at each NCC. It was thought the award was started at a time when the NCC was held every two years. The committee was in agreement the award is special and needs to go to an outstanding individual.

Tom Calabrese asked for input on the NCC meeting agenda to held at the 09 NCC. The general meeting will be held one hour before the Welcome Banquet, Wednesday, November 4. Agenda to include: committee report, judge's report, print program, amateur national pathway, 2010 FTC at large positions opening in January. Buzz Benson, Tom Calabrese and A.R.Ginn are the three coming to the close of the two year terms. We will ask for nominations from the cocker members in the upcoming weeks to fill the positions.

Tom brought forward the four judge concept and will present at the general meeting. Tom commented the four judge topic is concept and the committee is looking at the pros and cons of the four judge concept. Tom asked if we need to continue the discussion. Tony Roettger stated he was in favor of continuing discussion, as a way to help remedy last years situation. A.R. Ginn stated he was of the understanding we were heading in this direction for the 2011 NCC. Tom Calabrese stated we would need to present to the ECSCA Board for approval. Hob Brown commented the four judge concept is being looked at as a way to improve the sport and should not be seen as an insult to judges. We should look beyond the financial costs and consider it as part of the long term way to benefit the dogs.

A.R. thought we had taken a motion, second and vote on the four judge system. Tom Calabrese asked Buzz to go back in the minutes to check for the motion.

Tom asked Tony Roettger to expand on the eye wipe concept. The committee agreed that we should call this Game Conservation instead of "Eye Wipe", in order to clarify that the issue is about improving recovery of dead birds on the field and coming up with how we can get the job of picking up dead birds. Tom Calabrese mentioned at a recent trial, it was hot and the guns were instructed to comb the edges of the fields after the second series. Tony asked the question if we need to proceed and have it as part of the judging criteria, or have it as the clubs responsibility to make the determination or just get rid of eye wipes all together. Tom asked Tony to continue to work on some guidelines for the committee to look at and put it out to the cocker people for input. Hob Brown mentioned we have two issues we are looking at concerning eye wipes. Picking up all killed game and the other issue is testing the ability of the dog. Sue Wilson stated we are on the right track of not leaving dead game in the field. Sue also mentioned Senior and Master dogs in hunt tests are required to do a hunt dead, then a field trial dog should not a problem. More discussion will follow in future meetings as well as at the open meeting.

Sue Wilson asked for clarification of the procedure of selecting 2010 At large positions. Tom will be talk about and announce at the open meeting the position openings and procedure of selection. Tom noted the bylaws have the process we need to follow for the election.

Tom Calabrese noted the ballots for the 2010 judges have been sent out will wait for the results.

Tom discussed the method of collecting names to be placed on the ballot. Tom mentioned we had agreed as suggested by the judges committee, to ask each club to submit a name to be placed on the ballot. Tom also brought forward discussion from earlier meetings as to the alternate judge being a judge for 2010. The committee agreed that we had discussed and Tom asked Buzz to go back in previous minutes to confirm. Buzz stated it was in the judges committee report presented to the FTC and will check earlier minutes. Tom stated the alternate would then be used as a judge the next year. It was felt it was fair that the alternate be asked to judge the next year unless he was used to fill in for one of the selected judges in the previous year.

Olivia commented maybe we as a committee could do more to encourage input from the cocker community. Tom Calabrese noted he has not had any complaints from anyone on the East Coast, the southern area or North Dakota, as he has attended field trials.

Sue Wilson asked if a report would be put together from the 2009 FTC Committee. A committee report will be put together for the Annual ECSCA Board Meeting.

Meeting minutes submitted by Buzz Benson