

ECSCA FTC MINUTES
Annual/General Meeting in conjunction with NCC
Friday October 17, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Rumi Schroeder at 8:03 am in the conference room of the headquarters hotel, Holiday Inn, Bozeman, Montana

FTC members present: Rumi Schroeder, Tawney Crawford, Buzz Benson and A.R. Ginn

Guests: Dennis Joannides David Williams& Ollie Ginn Vicky Thomas, Paul McGagh Mr. & Mrs. Fred Simmons, John & Chris Dartt, Chris Maxcy, Terry & Susan Lewis,

Rumi welcomed the FTC members and guests noting that this annual meeting encourages participation by all and is the cocker community's only opportunity each year to meet face to face to review and discuss our sport. Since Tom Calabrese was not able to attend, Rumi called upon Tawney to record the minutes.

Rumi read the following report prepared by Tom Calabrese, ECSCA Gun Committee Chair:

ECSCA 2008 Gun Committee Report

STATS:

In 2008 there were 29 Open, 7 amateur and 13 Puppy Stakes that were shot. We had 179 individual shooting assignments for an average of just over 5 guns per event. This year we had 11 different Gun Captains managing the trials. All reported safe conditions.

NEWS:

We approved 3 new Cocker Gun Captains in 2008, and mentored several new guns. Our current focus is to support our Cocker Gun Captains, promote mentoring of new guns and the spaniel gun safety seminar.

We've had some discussions within the committee regarding qualification concepts for being invited to participate as an NCC gun. As of now, metrics don't seem to provide the answer and we're positioned to focus on advisory support to the NCC Field Trial Committee and NCC Gun Captain.

Rumi read the following report prepared by Barbara Haupt, 2009 NCC Chair:

Our hosts for the 2009 NCC have a long and proud history – the Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Club of America. The event will be held November 12th through the 15th at the Dyson Orchards property in New York's scenic Hudson River Valley. Dyson Orchards is in Clinton Corners, NY just off the Taconic Parkway which is easily accessible by land and air. The venue offers a broad variety of cover, including water and woodlands, plus the bonus of spectacular views. We are well into the planning stages for the 2009

National; key positions are being filled, site grounds are being groomed, plus the Cocker Club is sponsoring a trial there November 15th and 16th to give us more insight into expectations for 2009.

Post Script from Tawney – 2009 NCC Judges were announced at the Awards Banquet held Saturday October 18th. They are: Mike Noland and Ben Martin (Alternate to be announced)

Paul McGagh, Chairman of the Judges Committee presented the following report:
August, 2008

Following a review and comment period, the following comments and recommendations to the committee were received.

- 1) *Reduce the number of total trial experience between the two judges to 12 from the recommended 15.*

After discussion which revolved around experience vs. AKC reporting practices, the committee revised the recommendation from 15 trials in experience total to 12 total between the two judges.

Reasoning:

This accrual of number of trials coincides with current accounting system already in place for Springer Spaniel trials and would allow clubs to easily determine the total trial experience for their selected judges' panel.

- 2) *The second recommendation from the field regarded including a requirement that a judge have experience either judging AKC cocker trials or had experience and knowledge in handling Cocker in trials.*

Again after extensive discussion, the concept that only those knowledgeable in handling or judging cockers in prior trials would be considered apt and capable enough to appropriately judge cockers was challenged. This particular section resulted in much discussion which revolved around "Springer judge bias". The committee came to the determination that good judges are good judges regardless of involvement in Cocker trials but that experience in Cocker handling, training or prior judging assignments would enhance the judging panel but is not a requirement.

- 3) *The third recommendation was that prior to judging a cocker trial, any new cocker judge would be required to attend and pass a judges' seminar and apprentice judge.*

This recommendation was renounced.

Reasoning behind this recommendation was that the current Springer Spaniel judge selection and approval protocol requires that potential judges attend a judges' seminar and also apprentice judge. This Springer Spaniel program has been in place for over ten years and has become standard and expected. While it is acknowledged that this program of seminar attendance and apprenticing would likely be beneficial to some potential judges, there is little evidence that the program has produced better judges. In fact, this program self selects those who are eager to judge and not necessarily those that are ready to judge. It was the recommendation by this committee to not require the apprenticeship program but would not discourage anyone from attending a seminar or apprenticing.

In summary, the recommendation by this committee is amended to require a total of 12 judging assignments between the two judges to have occurred in 5 different venues.

It is further recommended but not required that cocker experience handling, training or trialing be given some weight in judge panel selection.

Further, attendance in a judge's seminar or apprenticeship program is not required.

A letter will be sent to AKC regarding changes to the Spaniel Field Trial Rules without consulting the ECSCA. The FTC's disapproval must be official and made known to the AKC. The ECSCA will attempt to see if we can get this revoked or specified as applicable to ESS only. We do not feel that our small community needs such regulations (regarding professionals and judges). Rumi expressed disappointment at receiving conflicting views from two different AKC officials.

Some discussion regarding low entry counts in certain regions, even prior to the current poor economy, revealed possible causes and some speculation. The ECSCA requires 4 months advance application and the AKC requires 3 months. Handlers also need this time to plan for these trials which can involve considerable travel. Some trials are being approved without adhering to the application deadlines. This may be a contributing factor for low entries. Though no specific evidence was given, it was theorized that this could be done purposely to keep entries low. As FTC Chair, Rumi stressed to sponsoring clubs to adhere to the application process set forth by the AKC and will encourage the new FTC Chair to do same.

The ECSCA Field Trial Committee Mission Statement has been corrected and will be sent to the Board of Directors to make the changes official. They are primarily language changes regarding the separation of the Field Events Committee into 2 separate committees: the Field Trial Committee and the Hunt Test Committee. The section regarding regional apportionment was unreadable and will be recopied and sent. (see below)

Midwestern Region : Illinois; Indiana; Michigan; Wisconsin; Minnesota; Iowa; Nebraska, Ohio

Eastern Region: Maine; New Hampshire; Vermont; Massachusetts; Rhode Island; New York; Connecticut; Pennsylvania; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Virginia; West Virginia; Kentucky

Southern Region: Texas; California; Louisiana; Kansas; Arkansas; Oklahoma; Mississippi; Alabama; Georgia; Florida; North Carolina; South Carolina; Tennessee; Missouri

Western Region: Alaska; Washington; Oregon; Idaho; Nevada; California; Hawaii; Utah; Arizona; New Mexico; Colorado, North Dakota; South Dakota; Montana; Wyoming

The situation regarding the lack of an official alternate judge for the 2008 NCC was addressed. No alternate had been named or contacted prior to the unfortunate withdrawal of an elected judge. It was agreed that the language and protocol regarding alternate judges needed to be clarified. In future, the top 2 vote getters (who accept the invitation) on the NCC judges ballot will win and the 3rd top vote getter (who accepts the invitation) will be named as official alternate. These 3 names should be announced at the annual NCC Awards Banquet or as soon as possible afterwards.

Copies of “How to bid for and run an NCC Field Trial” were handed out. As per these guidelines, we are obligated to review these regulations for revisions in 2010. In regards to this subject, Dennis Johannides would like to see dog qualifications for voting purposes changed as some dogs, who are no longer qualified, get a vote while others who did qualify do not get a vote. Vicky Thomas suggests a date change for voting. It was also suggested that it should be one person, one vote – regardless of how many qualifying dogs they own. This matter will remain open as a topic of future conversations for the FTC of 2009.

In a previous meeting, Mike Gilpin had requested that the ECSCA membership application be reviewed and simplified. Rumi approached the ECSCA president with the suggestion but Kathy indicated that it was unlikely that the Board would be receptive to any changes in the application at this time.

Vicky Thomas announced that Glencoe is donating a annual trophy for High Point Cocker in North America for competition in trials in the US and Canada. Points are accrued by adding the usual placement points times the number of entries and both countries must be represented by at least one trial. The points shall begin with the 2008 Canadian Nationals and end the day before the 2009 Canadian Nationals. The trophy will be given out at the Canadian Nationals banquet.

It was moved and seconded that the members of the FTC elect their liaison member to the ECSCA Board of Directors. The motion passed with discussion regarding this position is held by someone who will set aside their own agenda, attend both FTC and BOD meetings, and commit to a 4 year term.

Four positions are up for nomination to the Field Trial Committee. Terms are expiring for Rumi Schroeder, Tawney Crawford, Martin Bell, and Mike Gilpin. Buzz Benson, A.R. Ginn and Tom Calabrese will stay on the committee for their 2nd year of their term.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tawney Crawford

Following the general meeting, the remaining FTC members had the following discussion:

We need to define how regional reps get elected and perhaps how terms are defined so that only 2 new people each year. Suggested re-apportionment: Southern California to Southern region, North Dakota to Western Region and Ohio back to Midwest.

We must reiterate that nominations to the FTC must also be ECSCA members. Those nominations should go to FTC Chair who will share them with the FTC Representatives. They will then be sent to the recording secretary to prepare, send and count ballots. Winners will be presented to BOD for appointment along with the FTC elected liaison. Nominations should be accepted between November 30th and received by December 31st for 4 FTC members and liaison.

Nominees for liaison should come from community but be voted upon within the FTC. The Chairman and liaison are selected by FTC members only. It is suggested that the list for liaison is narrowed down to 5 who agree to serve if elected before a vote is taken. A.R. Ginn will provide a list of qualifications.