

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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2015
7:00 p.m. CST

Members Present: Deb Strohl, Mike Schroeder, Vicky Thomas, Walt Leytham, Robert Griffin,
Keith Meissner, Joe DeMarkis

Call to order was made at 8:05pm eastern time

Approval of the agenda was had after a discussion of the Agenda Items

Robert wished to welcome the new Committee members Walt, Deb, Mike & Vicky,

Unfinished Business

2015 FTC Elections:

Robert Griffin nominated Joe DeMarkis to be the Acting Field Trial Committee Chairperson pending revision of our Mission Statement, Vicky Thomas seconded. and everyone else on the committee was in favor.

Robert nominated Keith Meissner to continue as Field Trial Committee Secretary, Deb Strohl seconded Motion Approved.

I. New Business:

- a) Mission Statement Review and discussion on the FTC Voting process.

After a review of the history of the FTC Mission Statement, the committee agreed the wording in the FTC Mission Statement needed to be revised regarding the FTC Chairperson selection process. All committee members further agreed the Chairperson nomination needs to come from the FTC and not a-selection from the ECSCA BOD. Vicky will work on drafting a Statement to the ECSCA BOD stating that the FTC wants to reserve the right to choose its own Chairperson and to have the Mission Statement of the FTC changed to reflect this.

A discussion was held concerning how ties in the regional voting of FTC representatives are handled. The committee agreed in the event of a tie vote the FTC committee should not be involved in the voting process as it might be construed as biased for one candidate

over the other. Options were discussed and one included having the ECSCA President or Corresponding Secretary proceeding with a blind draw of the tied candidates. Further discussion included the voting procedures and in particular having all future ballots returned to the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary, not a member of the FTC. Secondly, it was the opinion of the committee that it was the responsibility of all ECSCA members to select one mailing address. The FTC can't try to remember who lives in various locations at any particular time period. Mike Schroder will work on bringing a written proposal outlining the procedure for voting and the event of a tied vote to the committee to be reviewed and then distributed via our minutes to our general membership for comments

b) 2015 FTC Calendar

A review of the 2015 Field Trial Committee Calendar was held and reviewed, It was deemed acceptable by all and Joe made a motion to accept the Calendar and Mike Schroeder seconded. Motion Approved.

c) Spaniel field trial Game Utilization and Recovery plan

A lengthy discussion was held concerning Field Trial Game Utilization and Recovery. The AKC and several other trialers have requested the FTC to develop a program to handle the conservation of shot game at Field Trials NCCs etc... The committee noted this is an issue at all field trials and not just the NCC. Several ideas were brought forward.

Vicky suggested the NCC have an individual responsible for finding lost game after a national. Mike said this could fall under the game steward's duties as they take care of game prior to, during and after the trial. Therefore, they could be responsible for the pick-up of dead birds left on the field. Mike further suggested game stewards keep a count of birds planted, retrieved and then picked up after the trial and these numbers kept (where?)

Keith suggested that the NCC chairman submit an outlined plan to the FTC for a Game Utilization and Recovery plan. A named Game Steward should also be included in this plan. This plan can be included in the NCC Chairperson's committee presentation to the FTC.

A discussion was held about judges having to be responsible for picking up all the game in the field. Walt felt all retrieves should be sent for and that judges already have the option of moving a handler closer to the fall if needed. He suggested this was similar to what one would do if they were hunting and shot a bird. Deb, Keith and Robert brought up that we don't want to force judges into making a decisions dictating how they should judge. It was felt that every situation is different and every judge is different and that we did not have the authority to be influencing judge's decisions. Joe read a section of the Green Book stating "any practical retrieve should be sent on, if it doesn't disturb the game on either side of the course" The word "practical" is to be determined by the judge.

Mike brought up the fact that if birds are left in the field, non competing dogs, Springers, Labs etc. could be used to sweep the field and pick up left over game. Some clubs make maps as the trial proceeds as to where the dead birds are in the field and list the number of birds used, shot, retrieved and picked up.

The committee felt it would be a good idea for each FTC representative to circulate info and ask for input from trial clubs and individual members as to how to utilize and recover game shot during a field trial.

Keith was concerned with what happens to the dead birds after the trial.

Robert stated that his trial the birds are processed and consumed. Vicky noted that the North Dakota NCC birds were donated to the Raptor pen at the local zoo. Cascade Trial processes the birds for food to use at the next trial. The Cocker Club donates the birds to a local Hunting Club which hosts a Game Dinner.

Joe suggested we have the information / guidelines printed and sent to clubs / Field trial Chairman at the approval of the Trial by the FTC outlining game conservation as well as birds used / recovered and how they are processed.

Vicky suggested we contact via our meeting minutes our existing membership to see if they had any ideas.

The FTC is requesting trial Clubs contribute their ideas on how they currently Utilize and Recover birds from a field trial. Does your club have any suggestions on a process of finding birds not retrieved? Can they make suggestions on how we could demonstrate better "citizenship" to honor those birds used in trials?

- a) How to increase ECSCA field trial interest membership was tabled until the next meeting.
- b) Coordinating Field Trial Dates to improve participation was tabled until the next meeting.
- c) The NCC Liaison discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- d) NCC judge's nomination process was tabled until the next meeting.

Due to the large amount of items to be discussed and the lengthy discussion that was taking place about several items on the agenda, it was decided to have another FTC meeting the following week Tuesday, February 10th at 8pm eastern time.

II. Adjournment – 10:10pm eastern time

III. Next FTC Meeting Tuesday February , 10th 2015 8:00pm eastern time
Respectfully submitted by Keith Meissner