

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

Field Trial Committee Minutes

February 4, 2014

Present: Kim Wiley, Chairperson, Joe DeMarkis, Terry Oliver, Barbra Defalco, Buck Grabowski, Keith Meissner and Robert Griffin

Call to Order – Agenda Approved (Oliver, Griffin)

Unfinished Business

- a) FTC 2014 Secretary – Barbara had requested to no longer serve as secretary. Thank you Barbara for your work last year! Keith has agreed to be this year's secretary beginning tentatively in March due to previous family commitments. Kim agreed to write the minutes for this meeting.

- b) Review of the ECSCA Jan. 10, 2014 Board Meeting – Knoxville, TN
 1. Review the number of field trials this year by region – document was shared at the annual meeting at the NCC in North Dakota last October. By region the West had 7 trials (14%), the South had 5 trials (10%), the Midwest had 18 trials (35%) and the East had 21 trials (41%).
 2. Combined springer/cocker field trial – the survey results from last year were shared as well as the decision that the FTC made to not pursue this type of trial at this time based on the results.
 3. Reprinting the Green Book – “A Guide to the Conduct and Judging of Cocker Spaniel Field Trials” – The book was originally published in 1989 and now needs to be updated due to AKC rule changes such as a judges criteria and the addition of amateur stakes. Because there is not a computerized file of the document (due to its original publication year) Sue Dwelly is scanning the book into an Optical Character Recognition program. She will edit any scanner errors and then send it to Kim so that the proposed updates can be made. The FTC will review and approve the updates prior to the book being sent back to the ECSCA Board for approval and reprinting.
 4. NCC and Annual Awards Protocol – this was approved by the FTC at their December meeting and approved by the ECSCA Board. A copy of the protocol is attached to the minutes and it will be added to the “How to Run an NCC” document which is available on www.fieldcockers.com
 5. 2014 FTC Slate was approved. Members are: Kim Wiley, North Central, Terry Oliver, North Eastern, Buck Grabowski, South, Barbra Defalco, West, and Members at Large; Robert Griffin, Joe Demarkis and Keith Meissner.

- c) NCC 2014 Tyrone, PA update – The proposed budget is being worked on and should be completed in the next four to six weeks. Planned expenses and fundraising will determine the necessary entry fee. Several members of the FTC expressed the importance of reducing the entry fee if possible. A portion of the committee is planning to meet in late March along with the Gun Captain to visit the NCC trial grounds to work on more detailed plans for the event.

- d) NCC 2015 – currently there is not a proposal for the 2015 NCC. There is a group of ECSCA members that are considering grounds in Minnesota but will not make a decision until after the spring trial on the grounds. Other clubs or groups of members from other parts of the country are encouraged to consider submitting a bid for 2015 or 2016. Questions should be sent to your FTC representative. The FTC would like a bid by June 1st.

- e) ECSCA Versatility Award for field trial dogs – Barbara is forming a committee to explore creating a separate award that would encourage field trial dogs to enter other AKC venues (agility, tracking, obedience etc...). The current award requires the dog to receive its Conformation Championship and does not recognize a difference in types of field events (field trials, hunt tests and working dog tests). This would be an annual ECSCA award given out like the current Versatility Award. For the current award description see page 117 of the 2012 ECSCA Yearbook.

- f) Bixby Award recipient biographies – Kim reported that he has sent the last two recipients' bios, Sheila Courts and Tawney Crawford, to www.fieldcockers.com to be linked to their names. The intent is that in the future this practice will continue so that others can learn about the award recipients.

New Business

- a) 2014 FTC calendar – approved (Oliver, Defalco). This is attached to the minutes and will be posted on www.fieldcockers.com

Adjournment at 8:33 p.m. CST (Oliver, DeMarkis)

Next Meeting – March 4, 2014 7:00 p.m. CST

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Wiley