

III. Approval of Minutes/Amendments to Minutes Terry made a motion to approve the minutes, Terry seconded that motion. Vicky abstained from voting. All were in favor.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. 2017 Cocker Calendar – update Open/Amateur events – Fieldcockers web page update. Deb has been working with Nadine updating the trial calendar on fieldcockers.com. It is difficult to keep the calendar correct when our clubs do not get their dates organized in advance and change dates week after week. Many clubs do not think it's a big deal to change dates and they switch back and forth. It becomes very confusing. The difficulty lies in getting trial clubs to respond to requests for dates and making the changes that frequently happen. The FTC is trying to find a solution so the calendar will be easier to maintain.

B. Shortening the qualification period – do we want to change the qualifications for the NCC from current years to 2 years? Pros – cons? Vicky is suggesting we begin investigating the advantages or disadvantages of changing our current 3 year qualification to a 2 year qualification for the NCC. The assumption is that a shorter qualification period will require more dogs participating in local field trials and we will have larger trials. It is further assumed that the more dogs entered in trials will raise the competition level. The disadvantage is that it may be more costly for people to maintain NCC qualification. It's noted that some people "put their dog on ice" once they've qualified for the NCC. A question was posed, "if shorter qualification periods are good for the sport, maybe we should move to a 1 year qualification and bring even more dogs out to compete?" We all felt we should take this step by step. We further noted that with the pending Amateur Championship, we don't know the effects on the NCC it might have and we should move with caution. All agreed. It was further agreed that no change would take effect without a full voice from the community. It can take place at our 2017 General Meeting or on Survey Monkey. The FTC would like to hear thoughts from the Cocker Trial Community about raising the NCC qualifications from 1 point in 3 years to 1 point in 2 years. (This is in regards to the Open National Championship ONLY)

C. 20 amateur stakes to be held in 2017 –Amateur National? Rumi reports we have secured grounds for the National Amateur Cocker Championship on April 12, 13th, 14th 15th in Dane County Mazomanie WI. Deb also stated that there are some trials that will have to move dates in order to work around Easter Weekend and the NACC. Dennis liked the idea of possibly having the Amateur National in Tennessee at the Hall of Fame during the February inductions. Deb and Mike stated that they didn't have time to view all the grounds at the Hall of Fame, but that the location may work as well as a North Carolina location. Vicky has been asked to formulate the letter to AKC for formal approval of the National Amateur.

V. New Business:

A. **DNA – MICRO CHIP –update** Vicky stated many people are discussing DNA tests that claim they can differentiate Springer lineage in Cockers. “Sprockers” has been a topic in the UK. At this time, the information we are seeing and reviewing is very inconclusive. Kim Wiley has been doing a lot of research on the subject for the ECSCA. The FTC will monitor the issue.

B. **Fillable submission form** – Some people are having problems with the form online. Deb will check on filling in the form. Dennis will contact Jordan Horak about developing a fillable form for people nominated to judge the NCC. **Hunt Test committee** Deb stated that ECSCA Hunt Test Committee has developed their Mission Statement.

C. **Dominique / 2017 NCC, Kansas November 1st start – February budget/committee members updates**

Dennis has developed a new letterhead with the picture of “Whinnie” the 2016 NCC winner. He will send it to Dominique to use for the letterhead of the National Chairs, Fundraising etc. Dennis has requested help in creating a letter head template that will let text flow to multiple pages using the left margin art work. Anyone who can help in creating this word document, please **contact Dennis at djoannides2@gmail.com**

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:23 pm EST by Dennis and seconded by Mike

The next FTC meeting will be held on the 21st of March at 8pm EST