

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
Field Trial Committee

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

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

I. Call to order was made at 8:10pm EST

II. The Agenda was approved with the additions of

The Green Book The Green book is put out by the ECSCA and is titled A Guide to the Conduct and Judging of Cocker Spaniel Field Trials. This is different than the AKC "Gold" Book which deals with regulations and awards of both Cocker and Springer Trials. The Green Book deals with Hunting Style, and how to Judge a Cocker Field Trial. It was felt by the committee that few in the Field Trial world know of the difference in the 2 books. The Green Book is available for \$5 from Sue Rose or also on the ECSCA website. Walt felt that the Green Book should be available to all field trailers and judges for free.

Merging of Trials Vicky feels it would be a benefit for Cockers because staging a trial on a Thursday/Friday made it difficult to find good judges and good gun captains, having the trials on weekends makes a larger availability of qualified people. Secondly, most of the available weekends in the west are already hosting springer trials, so finding a date is difficult. Vicky also added the larger number of dogs participating helped a club to pay to fly judges in because the clubs would have more money available which was a plus for the springer clubs.

Keith voiced his concern about the merging of Springer and Cocker trials. Keith is worried that this will be detrimental to Cockers because of Cockers being outnumbered by the Springers, and since most Cocker Judges aren't allowed to Judge a Springer Trial, we will not have our choice of Judges and will be stuck with Springer Judges that may favor figure 8 and board and bucket patterning instead of the classic hunting patterns of the cocker. Keith also worries that the grounds that we would be running on will be what the Springer trialers choose because they won't run in the woods or broken cover. Keith feels that switching from judging Springers to Cockers, back and forth with alternating series, will be confusing to most judges and may favor big running Cockers that run figure 8's and don't use the wind. Keith's main concern is that this will inevitably lead to changes in the Hunting and Style of Cockers in the future which will favor dogs that run like Springers and not Cockers. Keith is also concerned about being more under the control of the Springer community, which is the majority in Field Trials, and as the minority, our choices will become very limited.

Judging Style: There was a short discussion about Judging & Training style and this discussion was tabled until our next meeting.

III. Unfinished Business

- a) Review of Game utilization and recovery. The committee was very pleased with all the responses and suggestions that came back from Field Trialers about how and what they or their clubs do for Game recovery & utilization. There are many ways to accomplish both and it was felt that we should leave how it is done up to the clubs. Joe felt that a problem could come up with new clubs / field trial chairpersons to the sport and they should be mentored by someone w/ experience. We as a committee feel that this discussion has promoted a healthy conversation between field trailers and that it should be left as suggestions to clubs and not micromanaged. In June the committee would like to do a review of how the Spring Field Trials Recovered & Utilized their came and if no progress on the subject has been made then we will revisit the topic at that time. Vicky made a motion and Keith seconded that The Guidelines for the NCC should include a section on Game Recovery & utilization and that the NCC Chairman should have a plan in place with their submitted proposal. Joe will find out the proper steps to take to make changes to the NCC Guidelines Document.
- b) The FTC Mission Statement will be reviewed by each member of the committee and changes and or errors will be noted and forwarded to Vicky for corrections.

New Business

- a) **2016 NCC Bids – Due 6/1/15.** So far no one has submitted an application for the 2016 NCC. The committee would like to hear from anyone interested in hosting the 2016 NCC. Vicky has heard that there was some interest from the Colorado area and will follow up on that. Participation at the NCC was discussed several committee members were curious as to why people don't travel from region to region for field trials and NCC's
- b) NCC judge's nomination process – **can be submitted 6/10/15 and are due on 8/11/15.** Keith was concerned about who is actually picking our NCC Judge nominations. He felt that the Field Trial Clubs were making the decision as a group and that those clubs are filled with Springer, Hunt Test People who are having a say in nominating the NCC Judges for a National that they will never participate in. Do we really want people not running the NCC nominating our judges? Vicky is looking into how it is done on the Springer level and will get back to us with that information. Joe will contact the AKC for a list of approved NCC judges.

NCC Judges must have judged a minimum of twelve (12) AKC Championship Spaniel Field Trial stakes, of which at least three (3) must be AKC Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Championship stakes. Have Field Championed or, shared by handling the earning of points toward the FC or AFC title of a spaniel. Has actively handled a spaniel in an AKC field trial in the past three (3) years prior to the NCC they would be judging.

- a) Coordinating Field Trial Dates to improve participation – Walt and Keith This Agenda item was tabled until the March 17th Meeting
- b) Increasing ECSCA field trial interest membership This Agenda item was tabled until the March 17th Meeting
- c) 2015 NCC Liaison discussion – Jim Karlovec This Agenda item was tabled until the March 17th Meeting

Due to the amount of material that we need to cover it was decided to have another meeting in 2 weeks on March 17th.

IV. Robert made a motion for Adjournment and Joe seconded it at – 10:23 pm EST Next FTC Meeting March 17th, 2015 8:00 pm Eastern time