

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
Field Trial Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

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

- I. A call to order was made at 8:01pmEST
- II. Approval of the agenda: A motion was made by Mike & seconded by Vicky to approve the agenda
- III. Guest. Jim Karlovec 2015 NCC Chairman unfortunately Jim was not available to be on the conference call
- IV. Unfinished Business

A. Vicky moved to appoint Joe as Chairman of the FTC, Mike & Robert seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.. Joe will be forwarding this information to the ECSCA BOD.

B. NCC Judging Criteria

There was a 2 part discussion about the Judging qualifications

1. **NCC Judges qualifications:** The current qualifications for a NCC judge *is that they have judged a minimum of twelve (12) AKC Championship Spaniel Field Trial stakes, 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; and have actively handled a spaniel in an AKC field trial in the past three (3) years prior to the NCC they would be judging.* Keith brought up the fact that the minimum number of judged events for a Springer National is 6 events. He thought the idea that we only want judges to see Cockers at 3 events (which could conceivably be done in two weekends) was a very limited time for a judge to see and understand Cockers. He thought we should consider raising the minimum amount of Cocker Trials judged to a higher number more in line with the Springer minimum. Vicky thought that we should check and see how many judges would be qualified if we raised the minimum. Mike thought that we may be constricting the number of qualified judges. Deb felt that the judges should know and understand Cockers. Joe brought up the idea that NCC judges should have to see the Cocker more and that raising the number of minimum events was a good idea. Mike brought up the idea of 2 different venues of judging assignments instead of 3 trials, because of some trials being run three days in a row. The FTC would like to hear the opinions & thoughts of Field Trialers as to the qualifications for the NCC judges and if we should change the NCC judging qualifications.
2. **Local Trial Judges:** Deb brought up a concern that there are Judges that don't handle or train dogs and yet they are judging trials. Also new Cocker judges may be apprenticing under Springer Judges that have never run or judged Cockers before. Vicky and Robert both agreed that we should put our trust in the Field Trial Clubs to pick the appropriate and best judges that they possibly can. Mike & Joe were worried that if we start constricting the number of judges those few that will be available could influence the

future of the breed by imposing their particular bias of how our dogs should run. Keith and Vicky both stated that we need to avoid trials that pick poor judges and hopefully clubs will figure out who to invite to judge and who not to invite. Deb felt that we should have more active Field Trialers judging our Cockers, rather than people who don't trial and train Cockers and we should work to develop and encourage more Cocker Field Trialers to judge. The FTC would like to hear thought from trailers on how we encourage clubs to host quality judges.

C. NCC nomination Ballot Vicky reworded the NCC judge's nomination letter/qualifications for easier reading. We reviewed the document and Keith mentioned that the Chairpersons of the ECSCA hosted trials should also get to pick a nominee. There are many areas in the country where the only opportunity to stage a Cocker Trial will be to use the ECSCA License. Those Trial Committees should be given a chance to suggest a nominee. Everyone agreed that as long as it wasn't just a single individual making the nomination, any group staging a trial should be allowed input. The FTC would like the following change made to the NCC Judges Nomination Letter:

Additionally, when an AKC trial is hosted by a committee utilizing the ECSCA National Club license, that trial committee may submit a choice for the ballot. The committee is defined as the Trial Chairman, Trial Secretary and 4 additional members. (This language would substitute for "A Chairman of an ECSCA hosted field trial choosing the nomination of the NCC judges.")

Joe will send out an email to all the clubs that hosted a Cocker Trial in 2014 by June. Joe is looking to update our list of Field Trial Clubs that hosted cocker trials and their representatives so that we can get the NCC nomination letters out to them. At this time we have the following names and associated email addresses (see below). Each regional rep should verify/update.

Missouri Headwaters - ECSCA trial 2014, Robert Griffin chair
Dede Griffen dedegriffin1@yahoo.com
Cascade English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers
FT Secretary - Barbara DeFalco barbdeluca@hotmail.com
Tawney Crawford- Quailmoor@aol.com
Central Maine Spaniel Club (cancelled their trial in 2013)
Jim Keller jim@wildwindkennels.com
lenh@fairpoint.net
Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Club of America
Club Secretary - Noel Cacchio momcacchio@gmail.com
Central Connecticut
Noel Cacchio momcacchio@gmail.com

Maine Spaniel Field Trial Club
Becky Randall – lrandall@maine.rr.com
Jack Klette – klette@verizon.net
Mid-Atlantic Hunting Spaniel Club
Mike Gilpin
mike.gilpin@voxtokennels.com
Steve Roth – mroth_kennel@netzero.net
Mason Dixon
Mike Gilpin 484-556-4388
mike.gilpin@voxtokennels.com
The American Spaniel Club
Patricia Petraglia – px3@msn.com
Euclid
Steve Collins – slcollins73 @frontier.com
Jim Karlovec – flushstar@aol.com (also hosted an ECSCA trial)
Patriot Sporting Spaniel Club
Jack Klette klette@verizon.net
Pat Perry hedgerow1 @earthlink.net
LASHA
Chris Knapp – wirenut@midmaine.com
Spaniel Association of Western New York
Tom Calabrese eaglerare@verizon.net
Heart of Texas Spaniel Club
Elaine Grabowski bigcockerspaniel@aol.com
Waller Cocker Spaniel Club (ECSCA Trial)
A.R. Ginn ar@arginn.net
Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association
bethannwiley@yahoo.com
Nadine Kohn – nkohn25@gmail.com
Valley Forge
Tom Motely - j.motley@motleyassoc.com
Joe DeMarkis – jdemarkis@verizon.net

Susan Pierson – bill@pierson.com
Platte River
Dave Williams – dave-idwilliams525@hotmail.com
Fox Valley
Rumi Schroeder – fallenwings1@gmail.com
Deb Strohl – debstrohl@gmail.com
Southern California
Sue Wilson – suezannewilson@yahoo.com
North Dakota
Buzz Benson – bbenson42@bis.midco.net
Tom Ness – thomasness@hotmail.com
Northern Colorado Springer Club
Steve Wegner – stwegner@yahoo.com
Pawnee Flushing Spaniel Colorado
Tim Degroff – hpfspanman@msn.com
Adis Zilic – azilic@gmail.com
North Eastern Ohio Birddog Assoc.
Terry Reckart – terry_reckart@yahoo.com

AKC judges search We are able to search through the AKC database to find what Cocker Field Trials have been judged but it is not an easy process. Joe will approach Dawn Schuster about coming up with a list of NCC Qualified Cocker Judges and their past Cocker judged events.

a) Judging Criteria.

AKC request for a change in our Judging Criteria Vicky moved and Mike to change the Cocker judging criteria to require that the written AKC Judging test (normally following the Judging Seminar) must be successfully passed before a judging candidate may apprentice to be a Cocker Judge. The motion was unanimously passed. -Joe will contact Tom Meyers of AKC with this change.

b) **Coordinating Field Trial Dates to improve participation** was tabled until the next meeting

c) **2016 NCC Bids** was tabled until the next meeting

V. New Business

- a) **Increasing ECSCA field trial interest membership** was tabled until the next meeting
- b) **Mission Statement Review sub-committee** – The committee decided that a subcommittee should be formed with the intent to review, update and revise the FTC Mission Statement including a title change to “FTC Mission Statement, Standard Operating Procedures and Job Descriptions.” The proposed subcommittee would be initially chaired by Sue Wilson until the committee has an opportunity to meet and select their own chair. The FTC would like the subcommittee to look at the FTC Mission Statement and make revisions to define elements such as election procedures (dates of elections, how to deal with voting ties), procedures regarding NCC judge selection (such as timing), FTC makeup (term of office), a job description for the FTC Chairman including a calendar of tasks. Job description for Regional Representatives including circulation of the minutes. The FTC feels many details are unclear and could be better explained for future FTC members.
- c) **Procedure for approving Field Trials** was tabled until the next meeting
- d) Walt Leytham has tendered his Letter of Resignation to the FTC due to work and family commitments. Joe will check to see the standard procedure for filling his vacant seat, as well as come up with a list of ECSCA members on the East Coast to replace him. This item should be addressed in the Mission Statement update as to standard procedure.

VI. Adjournment was called by Mike & seconded by Robert at 9:46pm EST –

VII. Next FTC Meeting April 21st, 2015 8:00 pm Eastern time