

ECSCA FTC Meeting Minutes 7/10/2012

Present: Kim Wiley, John Dartt, Sue Wilson, Terry Oliver, Olivia Steele-Mortimer, Robert Griffin, and Sue Rose.

Absent: Joe DeMarkis

The agenda was reviewed and approved. There were no additions, and the meeting was called to order.

Unfinished Business:

2012 NCC Update:

Terry Oliver reported that plans are moving forward on schedule for NCC 2012.

A Flushing Dog Seminar has been scheduled for the end of August. This event is being held as a NCC fund-raiser, and is sponsored by Cabelas and the Maine Spaniel Field Trial Club. The event will be held at the Sugar Maple Farm in Hebron, Maine.

The committee discussed the Benelli shotgun raffle and ways to maximize profits from the raffle ticket sales. There will be a total of three (3) guns available. One offered as a raffle prize and two available in the silent auction.

Left over items, such as water bottles, from NCC 2011 that are not date-marked are being made available for NCC 2012.

HOF Advisory Panel Update:

Sue Wilson reported that information regarding the nomination process has been emailed to all HOF Advisory Panel members. HOF Advisory Panel members will be collecting nominations from their local constituents. Nominations will be accepted through August 31, 2012. Nominations should be submitted on the HOF nomination form, which may be obtained from any HOF Advisory panel member, and should include AKC award and progeny reports available online from AKC for a fee of \$8.00. Reports can be found on the AKC website: <http://www.akc.org/store/reports/>

From the nominations received, the panel will be selecting up to six (6) dogs and/or people to submit ECSFTHFC for final selection to the Hall of Fame.

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Following is the criteria for nominations as outlined in the ECSFTHF by-laws:

Nominations to the ECSFTHF

Nominations of dogs or people to the ECSFTHF shall be made by the Advisory Panel and will be accepted from June 1st through September 30th of each calendar year beginning in

2012. Nominations must be submitted to the chairperson of the ECSFTHFC on the form provided by the ECSFTHFC.

The ECSFTHF honors field trial dogs that have exhibited excellence in the field and made a significant contribution toward furthering the breed of English Cocker Spaniels in the field. Typically, these dogs are the ones that have been dominant in AKC field trial competition as demonstrated by multiple placements in various field trials nationwide. These dogs often will have produced pups that have gone on to become field champions. ECSFTHF honors persons who have made significant contributions over their lifetime to the field trial game. Contributions can be in several areas, such as, but not limited to: Handler, Judge, Patron, Dog Owner, Gunner, Club Official, or through service on field trial committees, etc. All persons nominated should have served the Field Trial game for a lengthy period of time.

Dogs

A nominated dog must be an AKC Field Champion (FC). A dog should be considered based on performance during its entire competitive career. Winning a National Championship does not necessarily make a dog an eligible nominee and should not overshadow an entire career. Nor should the lack of an NCC Title eliminate a dog if it has other NCC placements and multiple field trial wins. The dog's ability to perform for different handlers and in different regions of the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K., would be considered an admirable quality, but, not make a dog automatically eligible.

The future of the ECS depends on dogs producing excellent progeny. Therefore, a dog's progeny and their quality should be a strong consideration.

Other items to consider when nominating a dog to the ECSFTHF are: consistent high placements in open and amateur AKC field trial events, high point ECS for a given year, or a winning of multiple NCCs and foreign field trial championships or foreign national championships.

Certain dogs, during the course of their trialing careers, have been recognized by the field trial community as the "dog to beat" whenever they competed. Such reputation might also be taken into consideration. Dogs must be deceased for at least one year prior to being nominated to the ECSFTHF.

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Persons

People to be nominated and elected to the ECSFTHF should have an exemplary service record to the sport of field trialing ECS on a national basis for an extended period of time. Individuals should be nominated based on the total contributions they have made of time, talent, or treasure to the ECS field trial game. All persons should be respected by their peers as unselfish givers and exhibited good sportsmanship. People demonstrating long

term involvement with the ECS Field Trial game through service as a Patron, FTC or ECSFTHFC Member, Chair of NCC and local trials, Gunning FT and NCC, Judging FT and NCC, handling, training and owners of dogs that have earned titles (FC, AFC, NCC, CNFTC, ENFTC, etc.) are qualities one looks for in nominating a person to ECSFTHF. All people nominated to ECSFTHF must be deceased or 65 years of age or older. The intention is for the award to reflect one's entire lifetime achievement and although, some may still be active after age 65, it was felt the recipient need not be deceased to be recognized.

Nominations for NCC 2013 Judges will be accepted until August 10, 2012.

Eligible clubs should submit their nominations along with a brief biography to FTC Chair Kim Wiley at stonewalkercocker@yahoo.com

New Business:

All-Variety Spaniel Stakes:

There have been several suggestions to again discuss the possibility of an all-variety spaniel stake whereby cockers and springers would be able to compete together. It was pointed out that this type of event would be beneficial in the west where events are far apart and fewer in numbers. It could be seen as a way to grow the sport. On the opposing side, committee members were asked to consider if in fact this might be a dis-service to cockers and might in fact encourage them to run more "springer-like".

It was decided to table this discussion for further input and discussion next month.

AKC Responses to Questions Raised by Lisa Brown:

The following information and statements are from Tom Meyer and the AKC concerning several questions about Amateur stakes. The FTC felt that this was important information to share with all cocker field trial enthusiasts:

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All Field Trial performance breeds in the Retriever, Pointer and (Spaniel) Springer must have an Open stake to allow an Amateur stake to be held. This is nothing new and has been in existence since Amateur events were introduced.

Regarding the limiting of Cocker field Trials per year to (4) four, Please let it be known that in all other performance breeds that participate in Field trials in either Retrievers, Pointers and Spaniels (springers) that the allowable number of Trials per year is (2) two. That decision was made by staff with input from myself to allow twice as many or (4) four because of the small number of clubs, this would allow for more events and hopefully aid in the growth of Cocker Events.

What may need further clarification here is a "Single Trial" which includes one event number means: one Open and one Amateur, so on a typical weekend where two Open stakes are held two Amateur stakes may also be held. Magnify that for the year a CLUB who has four trial events in a year will have Four Open Stakes and four Amateur stakes if they desire. Again twice as many as any other performance breed.

Based on this information, the FTC agrees with the AKC that an Open stake should take priority over an Amateur stake. The FTC would further encourage clubs to take advantage of being able to offer more trials/stakes in order to encourage amateur participation. Currently the most trials/stakes offered by any club are 4 opens and 2 amateurs in a year. The current rule allows for 2 more amateur stakes to be offered by each of these clubs

Removing Conflicts of Interest from the NCC:

Lisa Brown has approached the FTC with a concern that there are conflicts at the NCC.

She would like all conflicts removed from the NCC such as, planter cannot be related (business or personal) to competitors, guns cannot be related (business or personal) to anyone competing, secretary setting up the running order cannot be a competitor, individuals cannot sponsor the gun team or make contributions to the NCC that would be deemed a conflict. Also, shaggers cannot be related to competitors.

At the March 6, 2012 the Field Trial Committee and again the ECSCA agreed unanimously to the following statement:

Perception of Conflict of Interest:

"A motion was made to accept and endorse the following statement: "This FTC committee agrees that no problem exists and unanimously supports any cocker enthusiast who chooses to participate in any trial process in which he or she is qualified or financially able and willing. We are a small group and without the time commitment or financial support of key people, our sport and breed would not be able to grow and flourish in this country. We are grateful for the commitment and dedication of all those who help this cause."

(1st Olivia Steele-Mortimer 2nd John Dartt - Unanimously Approved)

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This and previous FTC statements make it very clear that first and foremost, we do not believe that there is any impropriety going on in our sport. Of equal importance, our group is too small and we need and appreciate all forms of support that people are willing to contribute to our sport.

Based on the work done by many people including the current FTC, this issue has been resolved to the current FTC's satisfaction. Because we are too small of a group, we run the risk of alienating every person involved thus damaging our sport instead of growing our sport.

To be very clear, the bird planter's family members are allowed to run dogs, gun team members' family members are allowed to run dogs, secretaries and chair people and their family members are allowed to run dogs along with any other person holding a position involved in a trial.

Those who choose to support our sport financially are also always eligible to run dogs including gun team sponsors, photography sponsors or patrons.

-authored by Kim Wiley, FTC Chairperson

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 7:00PM CDT

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Wilson