

**English Cocker Spaniel Club of America**  
**Field Trial Committee**

Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

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

Special Guest: Jim Karlovec

- I. A Call to order was made at 8:09pm EST
- II. Approval of the agenda Vicky moved to have the FTC calendar reviewed, and Deb proposed a discussion about a NCC judges ballot forms as submitted by Dennis Joannedis
- III. Jim Karlovec 2015 NCC update Jim will travel to the grounds to look at the courses, woodlot, parking, tent area etc.. the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August. Jim noted he'd assembled a great team of qualified people doing the work on the committee. Judy Priestly is taking care of the judge's travel etc.. Chris Dartt is working on trophies, Terry Reckert is in charge of Fundraising, Sue Diehl is the Catalog Chair, Bethann Wiley and Jim Karlovec are (I don't think they are taking care of the Patron Program...I think that is Deb??? Hospitality chair? taking care of the Patron Program and Advertising. Jim has contacted B & P Ammo for a donation of ammunition and Dave Barto will coordinate picking up the ammo. Vicky was concerned that we are over fundraising. Reviewing the current budget with the sale of series banners, the budget had a \$9,000 profit. If we eliminate the sale of series banners, we still have nearly \$8,000 profit. There was a discussion held about how much profit we make on the NCC and whether we should be making a profit at all or aim for break even. Jim stated that, as the chair of the NCC, his concerns are good grounds, good birds, good guns etc and is more concerned with putting on a great trial, rather than making money. Robert expressed that it still needs to be a focus to see the NCC break even and not lose money. Mike stated that the entries will cover the trial and that we should put on a quality trial for the dogs not for the people. This year's FTC is requesting that we eliminate the sale of Series Banners as fundraising, as well as the Silent Auction, but we will continue the Patron Program and Calcutta. Jim has a good team in place for the 2015 NCC. Vicky stated in the past we gave an NCC print as a thank you to the landowner hosting the trial. Vicky & Jim will take care of this. Joe will send out some info to the FTC members about the NCC print program and how it works. Fieldcockers.com has updated the website showing the 2015 NCC information. We thank Jim for the update on the 2015 NCC.
- IV. Unfinished Business
  - a) Increasing ECSCA field trial interest membership Vicky came up with a letter/form for all potential members to be sent from Joe / FTC Chairman to invite potential candidates to membership in the parent club. A personalized letter may have more effect on people rather than finding an interest in the Parent Club on their own. Vicky would like to see the Regional Representatives start identifying key people that should be encouraged to become members. If the letter comes from Joe he will be able to keep record of all new potential members and to monitor the process through the parent club for them as well as finding their sponsors and seconders. If we have the FTC chairperson ask people to join and have sponsors and seconders lined up, we may see the pathway to membership unencumbered as it's been in the past. Robert would like to set up a recruitment committee for the ECSCA to help bring in new field members and nominated Deb to chair the committee and contact people we would like to see

join the ECSCA. The FTC has and continues to put a lot of thought and effort into this program and we have high hopes of it increasing the field membership of the ECSCA as well as expand the value ECSCA brings to its members.

- b) Procedure for approving Field Trials      Robert stated that the FTC has set a 500 mile radius between trials on the same date that supersedes the AKC 200 mile policy. Previously the policy was 1 trial throughout the USA per weekend and while that may be too restrictive in today's trial world we feel that the 500 mile rule works for the most part. Joe felt that we need to have the Regional Representatives work on coordinating trial dates. Vicky stated that there are several large clubs that could have a successful trial no matter what club is trialing on the same weekend. We discussed "what assets" the "super clubs" shared that had that made them so successful. If we could synthesize key elements that make those clubs "work" perhaps we could help build the smaller clubs. Mike felt that the guns were the key to Fox Valley's success, that people come to their trials because their guns are so good. Mike said it wasn't necessary to make the "beats" unusually difficult because the dogs sort themselves out. He said makes the trial as easy as possible and not a difficult in order to pull more entrants saying he felt that hospitality with dinners, beers, etc. also brought people to their trials.. Deb stated that she feels like the hospitably has been lacking in trials and that might be the reason for a decrease in attendance. Vicky agreed there is value in "the fun factor" stated that if people have a good time at the trial they are more likely to return the next year. We also discussed the reticence of people to travel to Texas and the west because of the difference in cover. Joe would like to see the Regional Representatives work out the field trial calendars to help trials get the greatest attendance possible. The FTC would like to get some feedback from Field Trialers as to what makes them want to attend a trial i.e... Birds, Grounds, Judges, Guns, Hospitality, Location, Friendship etc...
- c) 2016 Judges Nominations      Tabled till the next meeting

## V. New Business

- a) Update on the FTC calendar

August 11<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the 2016 NCC judges nominations

August 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Bixby Award nominations The FTC is taking nominations for the Bixby Award up until August 30<sup>th</sup>. We would like to see any nominations for the Bixby Award at that time. Qualifications for the Bixby Award are as follows

**The Harold S. Bixby Service Award recognizes the individual, who during the course of the year has continuously, unselfishly, and distinctly given of themselves to advance the cause of English Cocker's fieldwork. The Awardee selected is to exemplify the high standards set by Harold S. Bixby, the award's namesake, whose generosity and unselfish support of English Cocker's in the field has contributed enormously to their success in all field events, trials, and hunt tests.**

September 1<sup>st</sup> the 2016 NCC judges ballots are mailed

A discussion was held about putting alternates on the NCC judge's ballot or changing the ballot forms. There was a concern that we should know who the alternate judge would be for the NCC rather than trying to figure it out after someone has declined or had to remove themselves from judging the NCC. The current ballot has every qualified dog getting 2 votes for NCC judges. Several different ideas were put forward including listing an alternate judge, voting for 3 judges and voting a 2<sup>nd</sup> round. The

FTC would like to hear opinions and feedback from field trailers concerning how we vote for alternate NCC judges.

The FTC would like to apologize for a mistake in last month's minutes, where it was stated that Tawney Crawford will be co-chairing the 2017 NCC.

- b) Field Trial Liaison to the BOD            Tabled till the next meeting
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FTC Chair report to the BOD      Tabled till the next meeting
- d) Mission Statement Revision from Sue Rose            Tabled till the next meeting
- e) Decide on date for next meeting                      Tabled till the next meeting

VI. Adjournment – Next FTC Meeting July 28th, 2015 8:00 pm Eastern time