

# **English Cocker Spaniel Club of America**

## **Field Trial Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 8:00 AM Eastern Time**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER** A call to order was made at 8:12pm

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** The agenda was approved

### **III. CALENDAR DEADLINE REMINDERS**

- a) December 1, 2015                      Ballots will be mailed for FTC vacant positions election
- b) December 19, 2015                  Ballots for FTC election must be postmarked by this day
- c) December 29, 2015                  The FTC selects it's new Chairperson
- d) January. ???, 2015                  Present elected FTC slate to the ECSCA BOD at January 2016 Board meeting

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- a) **FTC nominations review:**      The FTC has reviewed the nominations for the vacant FTC positions. We urge all members to participate in the voting process Please remember to return all ballots by Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- b) Rumi Schroeder has been added to the list of ECSCA Directors that have been nominated for the 2016 elections. We encourage all members to vote for the nomination that you feel will best represent your concerns in the ECSCA.
- c) **Gunning Criteria**                  It was reported that several FTC members have been approached by field trailers about rotating the NCC gunners allowing other qualified gunners an opportunity to shoot at the NCC. The original suggestion is to restrict gunners to wait 2 years between NCC's but the FTC restricted discussion to an every other year concept. We recognized that any discussion without direct input from the current Gunning Committee was inappropriate and that we needed additional information on the pros and cons of the proposal. We recognized that gunners travel at their own expense and volunteer their time. We discussed a policy change that would allow a change in the NCC to fund the cost of housing, food and ammunition for NCC Gun Teams rather than purchasing gifts. The suggestion was the gun team would be offered travel expense money instead of gunning gifts as done by this year's NCC chairman. The FTC feels we need to consult with the Field Trial Gunning committee who originally prepared the document "The English Cocker Gunning Program and Criteria", but we would also like to hear back from field trailers about the NCC Gun Team rotating every other year. The pros of this program would be to allow more guns to be invited to shoot an NCC and would help to expand the numbers of quality cocker field trial guns. The second suggestion that has been made to the FTC is to

see that the Gunning Committee be expanded to have regional representatives (similar to the Springer World) in order to create more participation and review of qualified candidates in other areas of the country. The FTC reviewed the Gunning Criteria questions arose about the Gunning Committee that should be explored during a meeting. It was decided to contact the original gunning committee and invite them to an FTC meeting as soon as possible.

- d) NCC Review                      Tabled till the next meeting

#### **V. 2016 BUSINESS SLATED FOR REVIEW**

- a) Developing an awareness of proper patterning of the cocker as defined by the trialing community. (It is important to note that the FTC has been using inappropriate nomenclature in our minutes that has caused confusion. The FTC is **not** requesting one particular pattern that would be considered “proper patterning of the cocker” but several random patterns based on wind conditions and cover.)
- b) NCC Judging Criteria as defined by the trialing community
- c) Creating an ECSCA program to promote and/or support our 20-30 year old handlers

#### **VI. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45PM EASTERN TIME**

#### **VII. NEXT MEETING** Tuesday December 29<sup>th</sup> 8pm Eastern Time