

## **ECSCA FTC MINUTES – January 12, 2010**

**Present:** Buzz Benson, Hob Brown, Terri Burrows (ECSCA President), Tom Calabrese, John Dartt, Dede Griffin, Dennis Joannides, Olivia Steele-Mortimer, Sue Wilson

**Absent:** Tony Roettger

Tom Calabrese called the meeting to order and welcomed the (3) new AT-LARGE MEMBERS to the FTC 2010. They are **Buzz Benson** (re-elected), **John Dartt** and **Dennis Joannides**.

The up-to-date list of the 2010 ECSCA approved Cocker Field Trials, which was delivered via email to the committee, was reviewed and members were asked to distribute the list to their regional members. Following some discussion, we learned that the Pawnee Flushing Spaniel Club (Colorado) is not going to hold their 2010 field trials. The March dates will remain assigned to the Colorado club for future field trials.

Following some feedback the committee received from Buck & Elaine Grabowski (Texas) and Rumi Schroeder (Wisconsin), the topic of an "all variety spaniel" field trial stake was again revisited. The general consensus was that this type of trial would provide additional venues of competition, with shorter travel distances, for those participants in the Western U.S. such as California, Texas, and Washington, however, Midwest and East Coast Springer trials are already well attended with large entries (50-60 dog trials) and it is unlikely that the springer people in these areas would consider anything that would make the fields even larger. Tom Calabrese stated that the committee had previously agreed that the hurdles were many. For example, approval would have to be obtained from BOTH parent clubs to hold an "all variety spaniel" stake and the rules regarding guns, judges, etc., would require coordination. At present the selection of guns and judges for cocker trials, as accredited by the ECSCA, is not identical to the requirements used by the ESSFT. Further there is the matter of the AKC being unwilling to allow points towards a championship if this was not universally adapted by both organizations for all trials. Lastly we discussed the concern about the pressure that this type of stake would bring to bear on handlers to change training methods in order to remain competitive, and the end result could possibly be the loss of the distinction between the breeds. Our efforts might be better spent in growing participation and interest in cocker field trials at the local regional level by encouraging more clubs within the regions to hold Open and Amateur stakes. The committee agreed that this topic needs further discussion and that it would not hurt for a sub-committee to explore the "all variety spaniel" idea and come up with a specific proposal for the FTC committee's review. Elaine Grabowski had expressed an interest in participation on the sub-committee.

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Terri Burrows advised the committee that the ECSCA Board of Directors would like to work directly with the FTC Chairman as the conduit of information and communication with the committee, and that the board had appointed Sue Rose as the Field Events Liaison for 2010 and would rely on her for clarification of historical events and field trial terminology.

Tom Calabrese encouraged the committee to contact Dave Barto, George Kittle, and Rumi Schroeder and expedite the NCC 2010 field trial application to the ECSCA Secretary for approval and thereafter submission to AKC. As usual, no print advertising of the event can occur until AKC has approved the trial. The application should be completed and submitted as soon as possible. An alternate judge for NCC 2010 also needs to be selected. This should be the person with the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of votes from the ballot, unless they decline.

Tom also stated that there had been a complaint to the ECSCA board regarding the selection of NCC 2009 judges. This year the local clubs who had held a cocker field trial during the previous year submitted a name (s) along with a short biography. Previously individual ECSCA members who participated in field trials were asked to submit a name(s) and the list often was quite lengthy. Further discussion and a clarification of this part of the selection process is required and a proposal needs to be finalized and submitted to the ECSCA board for approval by September 30<sup>th</sup> in time for their 10/02-10/03/10 meeting.

The committee thanked Tom for his guidance and leadership during 2009 and he then removed himself from the meeting. Buzz Benson's name was nominated (Sue Wilson) and seconded (Olivia Steele-Mortimer) for 2010 FTC Chair. Following discussion, Buzz was unanimously selected.

Sue Wilson was nominated (Olivia Steele-Mortimer) and approved as FTC secretary for 2010. Timely distribution of the committee meeting minutes is a focus for this year. And committee members are encouraged to solicit ideas and suggestions from field trial participants in their local area for discussion at future FTC meetings.

The meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue Wilson*

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 2/09/10 8PM EST**