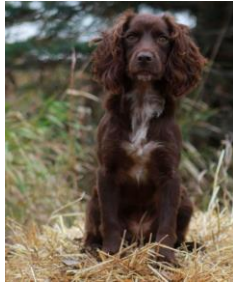


Field Trial Committee Minutes



NFC, FC Absolute Winnie

Owner: **Jim Leferman**

Handler: **Dan Murray**

2017 FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE

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"Doing My Part"

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Members Present: Deb Strohl, Mike Schroeder, Vicky Thomas, Keith Meissner, Pete Rizzo, Dennis Joannides **Absent:** Terry Reckart

Guest Present: Rumi Schroeder, NAC Chairperson

I. Call to order: The call to order was made at 8:03pm

II. Approval of Minutes: The previous meetings minutes were approved as amended.

III. Approval of the agenda: The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved

IV. Old Business:

A. 2018 National Amateur Championship (NAC):

1. A letter is in the process of being sent to Doug Lungren at the AKC asking for approval to hold the first National Amateur Cocker Championship April 12-15, 2018. The letter addresses the current number of Amateur Stakes, the number of qualified dogs and our expectations of participation, now and in the future. It outlined how we have exceeded the 2009 recommendations AKC wished to see us attain before they would grant an Amateur Championship. The FTC acknowledged all NAC planning is pending receipt of a response from the AKC.

2. Rumi Schroeder joined the meeting to outline a possible venue for the 2018 NAC. She reported Chuck Nelson has been working tirelessly to find great grounds. With the aid of several people, it's possible he's gained access to a local area in Dane County that offers outstanding cover to hold pheasants. Rumi also reported that there are two backup locations available in case this new set of grounds doesn't work out. These scenarios include a set of grounds that offer two "woods" series. Both backup fields have been used previously for Cocker & Springer trials and have proven to hold pheasants. The cost of the "Dane County" grounds will be \$200 a day (the charge for public property) or \$125 a day for privately owned grounds. Rumi stated that if the County grounds are better than the private grounds then it would be worth the extra expense. Also, Rumi reported there are 2 different locations scouted for the 5th series. Rumi will be re-looking at the grounds next month as this should be a fair assessment of what to expect in 2018.

3. Chukars have been reserved for the wood's series at \$7.25 each and \$11 for hen pheasants with a \$325 delivery fee. For planning purposes, Rumi is expecting 50 dogs to enter the NAC. She will get a budget to the FTC once we've gained the necessary AKC approvals.

4. Dawn Schuster & Vickie Dalik are negotiating with Deer

Valley Lodge in Barnsville, approximately 20 minutes away from the grounds. Deer Valley is a brand new hotel that includes an indoor water park and golf course! We are working on getting pet friendly rooms which currently are not available. The price per room will be \$79 a night. There is also a banquet and catering facility at the hotel with reasonable pricing. There will be a cash bar. The Super 8 & Caricall, two equally close and but smaller hotels, both offer pet friendly rooms.

Chris Dartt is working on the trophies and has been given a budget of \$600 for trophies and \$200 for ribbons. Vicky asked if we should consider a different tack for our Amateur Trophies using the Canadian National as an example. (Their Nationals only give the 1st place dog a standardized plaque, the rest of the placements receiving ribbons.) This, as a long term strategy, reduces and simplifies the overall burden of having a chair person find trophies and the responsibility of additional fundraising. Rumi reported that Chris is fairly confident she can get the funding for her \$600 budget and everything would work out. Vicky wanted to note that in the future, if we have 2 Nationals a year, we would be requesting trophy donations twice, which also meant we were asking the same people to contribute again or we would need to identify a new set of donors? Deb stated that she felt that Chris could get the trophies taken care of. Dennis stated that trophies were important and people feel good about getting the trophies, it's part of attracting people to participate. If we didn't value our trophies, it might appear we don't value the event. With that said, we questioned if a \$600.00 funding budget would achieve the look of quality we'd want represented? We then questioned which trophies are already provided by Purina and how we would address the High Point Amateur Dog and Handler awards. It was agreed to request Chris review our current trophies and list those that are already provided. We agreed that several trophies, including High Point Amateur handler etc would be awarded at the NAC, but announced during the time period of the Open Championship (as it is currently awarded).

Rumi stated that the catalog budget will be \$300-500 as it's a smaller catalog as there will be no Amateur National History to include for the first catalog. As soon as we get the official approval from the AKC, Rumi will start to fund raise and acquiring sponsors to help offset the costs of the Amateur National.

There was a brief discussion about the method we'd use to vote for NAC judges. The general thought would be to have Trial Clubs that have staged an amateur stake submit judge candidate names and owners of a qualified dog gets one vote for each dog qualified regardless of the number of owners of a given dog. The FTC felt that other voting procedures could be considered in the future.

The FTC would like to thank Rumi for the exceptional work she and her committee have been doing to make the 2018 Amateur National a reality.

B. Shortening the NCC qualification from 3 years to 2 years:

1. People are assuming we will have an National Amateur Championship and we are already seeing additional Amateur stakes offered at local trials based on this optimism. We don't know how the Amateur stakes will affect entry numbers in our open stakes; will we see amateurs not entering in the open stakes, opting to compete in the Amateur stakes only? Or, because (after this first NAC) amateur dogs are qualified for 3 years, we will still have very low entries in Amateur events and the number of people in open stakes will stay about the same?

2. We noted that Field Trial events vary around the country. In the West, the springer field trial clubs have their open stake on Saturday and their Amateur stake on Sunday and many Amateur handlers enter both days. In the other regions clubs may have alternating series making it more difficult as it might exhausts the dog, especially in hot weather. We are also seeing some sequential trials (both cockers and springers); we don't know how many of those events will have enough entrants to offer an Amateur stake.

3. In general, the thinking that shortening the qualification for the NCC from the current 3 years to 2 years would have two effects. First, it would cause more dogs to enter open stakes and our field trial clubs would benefit from a larger entry in their local trials. The timing of this might be significant because we'd also be seeing the shift of participants away from Open stakes to Amateur stakes, so shortening the qualification would secure open stake numbers. The second effect would be on the Open Championship. We noted our last NCC had almost 100 dogs, and with a shorter qualification, we assume fewer dogs would qualify and participate. We do not want to have a negative effect on the Open Championship by making the qualification too harsh.

4. The discussion attempted to weigh the benefits of shortening the qualification period against the timing. Dennis questioned if we should wait and see how the Amateur National will affect the number of dogs entered in the NCC-- Open National. Mike felt using a 2 year qualification will help boost the attendance at the regular open trials. There may be a dip in attendance if more people start to attend the amateur regular trials to qualify for the Amateur National. Mike also stated that a shorter open qualification period will help to increase the quality of dogs entered in the regular open trials by making the trials much more competitive.

5. We polled the FTC on changing the Open qualification from 3 years to 2 years and had a tie vote (3-3). (The assumption is the change would take effect in 2019) It was suggested we create a survey and poll (aka "Survey Monkey) the field community to see how everyone felt about changing the qualification from 3 years to 2 years and the year this change would take effect. It was also suggested the poll asks if the qualification for the Amateur should also be 2 years rather than 3.

6. Dennis questioned if the size of this year's NCC entry will be as large as last year due to the geographical location and the anticipation of an Amateur NCC in 2018. What would be the long term effect of stricter qualification period when the Nationals are held in the West?

7. The FTC has decided to table this discussion until the next FTC meeting in hopes that circulating the topic for discussion in our minutes will create additional feedback. Vicky has been asked to formulate some questions for the survey and present them to the FTC at the next meeting.

C. AKC rule change Pro status to revert to Amateur status:

1. Kim Wiley approached the FTC suggesting there be some language change(s) in the amendment presented to us by the Springer Community regarding Pro status to revert to Amateur status that we approved in January. Kim has worked on the language change and requested the FTC approved this new language. The FTC approved it via email at the beginning of March. (We are attaching the approved AKC rule change at the end of these minutes.) The FTC confirms its approval and request the rule change be sent to the ECSCA BOD for their approval.

V. New Business:

A. Perpetual High Point Trophy donated by Kuni Smith

A motion was made and seconded to retire the High Point Open Trophy donated by Kuni Smith, returning it to her effective October 2017. It was approved unanimously.

B. High Point Open Trophy:

We discussed how or if we should fund a new High Point Open Trophy. Tabled until the next meeting.

C. Sequential trials:

It's been noted that since sequential trials are new, some verbiage on the mechanics of how they work should be inserted into premiums to keep people from being confused. This will be tabled till the next meeting.

D. Fallon Nevada fall sequential Cocker/Springer Field Trial:

Vicky stated that the Fallon Club near Lake Tahoe, Nevada will be hosting a field trial in the fall and offering a sequential event for Cockers and Springers. Details later.

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 9:55pm EST

Next meeting Tuesday April 11th 8pm EST

