

ECSCA FTC MINUTES – April 13, 2010

Present: Buzz Benson, Hob Brown, John Dartt, Dennis Joannides, Tony Roettger, Sue Rose, Olivia Steele-Mortimer & Sue Wilson

NCC 2010 Alternate Judge Assignment:

From the remaining list of NCC judge nominees, no one has accepted the NCC 2010 alternate judge assignment. Reasons ranged from date conflicts to economics, and an unwillingness to make a two-year commitment or give up a week “to do nothing”. In the discussion that followed it was suggested that we go back to the “original” alternate judge method, which had the person agreeing to step in as the NCC judge if necessary, but did not require their attendance at the NCC. It was also suggested that we ask prior NCC judges, Mike Nolan and Mark Schinderle, both of who had to cancel, if they would be willing to act as alternates for NCC 2010. Another suggestion was made to go back to the clubs who had held field trials in 2009 and ask them to submit an additional name. This would be followed by another vote. In the interests of time, it was felt that the alternate judge for NCC 2010 needed to be selected now and that we should not wait another month.

A motion was made and seconded to (a) contact the first and second alternates from the original list and ask them if they would re-consider acting as alternate judge for NCC 2010 with their attendance not required unless they were replacing a judge. In the event they both declined, (b) Mike Nolan and Mark Schinderle would be contacted. And if neither (a) or (b) fulfilled the alternate judge requirement the FTC committee would (c) select an alternate. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

English Cocker Gunning Program and Criterion

The committee agreed by a vote of affirmation to submit the English Cocker Gunning Program Criterion dated 6/20/2008 to the ECSCA Board for approval at their next meeting on 5/02/2010. It was agreed that there is room for updating and improving this document on an ongoing basis; however, the time is now to have such a document officially in place, and it was noted that AKC is looking for us to have a gun program in place.

NCC 2011 and NCC 2012 Bids

Bids to hold NCC 2011 and 2012 have been received from the Minnesota and Maine clubs. Maine has submitted a written proposal to the ECSCA board and Buzz will request a written proposal from Minnesota. Buzz urged us to have the written proposals approved and ready for submission and approval to the ECSCA Board at their next meeting on 5/02/2010.

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Buzz will secure the written proposals from both clubs and distribute them to the committee for review. The next ECSCA Board meeting won't be until September, so it's very important that we try to expedite and approve the bids before the May board meeting.

Game Conservation

We all agreed that it has become increasingly important at hunt tests and field trials for clubs to insure that **all game must be harvested**, and that birds shot must not be left lying injured or dead in the field. By not doing so, we create the impression that we are careless and irresponsible about game conservation. It was noted by some newcomers and state game officials, at both recent hunt tests and field trials, that dead birds were being "left on the ground". It was agreed that this impression is not beneficial to the future of our sport.

By a vote of affirmation, the FTC committee has directed clubs from here on forward to **include the following statement in both their hunt test and field trial premiums:**

"Every effort will be made to recover all game."

This statement should become standard just like the wearing of "blaze orange". The method by which this is to be accomplished has been left up to the individual club. It may be by use of a "hunt dead", "eye wipe", pick up dog(s), or a combination thereof. Clubs are encouraged to share input on methods being used for harvesting game from the field. Likewise they are encouraged to share methods being used to make use of dead game. For instance, Montana invited a local retriever club to come collect dead birds for use in their training sessions. California made use of harvested birds for lunches in the form of "chukar cheeseburgers". Buzz Benson will send a letter to each club explaining the new game conservation policy.

Future Agenda Items:

1) Cocker Judging Criterion 2) Weighted High Point Stat and 3) Amateur National. Clubs and ECSCA members are encouraged to send topics of discussion to their regional representative for inclusion at future meetings.

Our next meeting: Tuesday 5/11/10 – 8:00PM EST

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Wilson