

05.13.08

ECSCA FTC Meeting Minutes

Teleconference Call

Present; Martin Bell, Buzz Benson, Tom Calabrese, Tawney Crawford, Mike Gilpin,
A.R. Ginn,
Rumi Schroeder.

Rumi called the FTC to order at 7PM Central Time.

OLD Business:

Rumi reported having received a letter from Vicky Thomas regarding the proposal of having the Spaniel Master Hunter Qualifying Score suffice as the FC required Water Test. The English Springer parent group did not receive the proposal enthusiastically. They sent the proposal to a sub-committee headed by Gary Wilson for further evaluation.

The Print Program was discontinued by FTC vote in 2007 and ECSCA board approval in January 2008. There was a proposal made to reopen the Print Program, after much discussion regarding the financial pro's and con's it was decided to address the issue in the next FTC meeting with a vote of In / Out / or Optional. If "In / or Optional ECSCA board approval would be required.

New Business:

Rumi reminded the committee that the recommendations for the NCC 2009 Judge's panel should be submitted by the first week of June. It was discussed the Sue Rose had previously developed the methodology for the submissions to included as a selection on the ballot. It was requested that at the next FTC meeting would refresh the FTC on the methodology. It was commented that the methodology worked very well. The number of judges on the ballot was discussed, with the number of eight considered to be the preferred number.

The Judges Committee met and has prepared a report to be sent out to the Cocker Community for evaluation and comments. The Cocker clubs, after evaluation should respond to their FTC rep.

See attached report

The Gun Committee reported that discussion was in progress regarding the concept of recommended guidelines as qualification to participate on the NCC Gun Team. Concepts are in development and will be reported next meeting.

The NCC 2008; Tawney reported everything is on schedule, no new business to report.

The NCC 2009; Mike Gilpin commented that he would chair the event and that a formal proposal would be forth coming. A Fall Cocker trial would be held at the proposed site on Nov 15th and 16th, 2008.

Next meeting is schedule for 05.27.08 same time, same place.

TAC

May 7, 2008.

Judges Committee Report

At the request of the parent club FTC, a judge's committee was formed to review current judge selection standards for AKC Cocker Trials. The committee was further charged with developing and recommending an alternate system if it was deemed applicable.

The committee, chaired by Paul McGagh, included Martin Bell, Tawney Crawford, AR Ginn, Ernie Hasse, Dennis Joannides and Dominique Savoie. The committee met twice via telephone conference and after long discussions came to a unanimous recommendation. These recommendations were developed with consensus from all members of the committee. Following are some items discussed and guidelines used in the development of our recommendations.

1. Any plan proposed would and must be simple and easily implemented.
2. There would be no formal training program, no testing nor any apprenticeship program as is now adopted by the English Springer Spaniel parent club. It was felt by the committee that these requirements did not lead to better or more informed judges.
3. Requirements must be such that local trial hosting clubs remain in control of who they ask or who they would develop as judges.
4. Foreign judges i.e. Canadian or EU judges are not excluded from consideration.

After much discussion and comments, the committee recommends the following two part process. Neither one nor the other is more important, both are considered to be crucial to producing a careful and wise judge selection.

The recommendation is as follows:

- Any judge's panel selected for either an Amateur or Open All Age stake would be required to have judged a total of 15 AKC English Cocker or AKC English Springer Spaniel trials between them.
- The 15 trials would be from 5 different locations, regions or host clubs.

15/5 is the acronym applied.

Reasoning:

A judging assignment is defined as anyone All-Age Stake, either one Amateur or one Open. 15 judging assignments in AKC trials assures the host clubs that at least one judge has extensive experience judging AKC trials. This does not exclude a new judge or a foreign judge from being selected. Having one judge with that much experience ensures integrity to the American Kennel Club judging standards.

5 Locations/Regions or Host Clubs assures that the judges are well rounded with experience in more than one locale. This recommendation has been included in order to promote selecting judges with a wide breath of experience; ones who have judged dogs in various covers, scenting conditions and avoids regional bias. Mentorship is promoted with conversations between any new judge and their co-judge or senior judge prior to the event encouraged. Mentorship during the course of the season between knowledgeable and senior judges with new or prospective judges during fun trials, club training sessions or during the course of trials is also encouraged.

New judges would automatically be sent the Green Book prior to their first assignment. Sending a copy of the Green Book to any judge is recommended, even to existing or senior judges. These are available at a nominal fee from the parent club to any event coordinator and it is highly recommended that these be available to anyone requesting a copy.

This program allows new judges to be developed under the guidance of an experienced judge, allows foreign judges, and allows for independence for local clubs to select individuals without adding onerous requirements to attend judge's seminars or travel to apprentice judge.

Please do take the time to think through these recommendations. We encourage discourse and are very willing to accept any comments or suggestions from all of you in

our Field Trial community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McGagh (Chair)

AR Ginn , Ernie Hasse, Tawney Crawford, Dominique Savoie, Martin Bell, Dennis Joannides