

2009 ECSCA Field Trial Committee

Meeting Date:

Members Present: Tom Calabrese, Hobson Brown, Sue Wilson, Buzz Benson, A.R. Ginn, Deirdre Griffin

Members Absent: Olivia Steele-Mortimer, Tony Roetter

Agenda: Phone number 712-451-6100 code 393493#

1. Alternate Judge for 2009 NCC and date change
2. Amateur Nationals Find a pathway to approval
3. Print Program Reinstatement-funding- Sale of Prints- donations- Patron Program
4. Judging. Requirements for Trials. 12 assignments-5 varying venues

Tom is not sure the alternate judge for the 2009 NCC has been contacted. Tom will follow up to make sure that is done. Planning is moving well with the grounds, birds, hotel and judges all good. Date for the 2009 FTC is set for November 5-8, 2009.

Tom reported the AKC declined our request for approval of an Amateur National. The AKC feels we have not run enough amateur stakes and did not have enough qualified dogs. Tom commented it is a "catch 22" in that if we do not have an Amateur Nationals, the enthusiasm to compete in the amateur stakes is less interesting.

We need a plan to approach the AKC to give us some guidance and a standard to work toward running an Amateur Nationals.

Buzz commented on the AKC web site regarding AKC standing on the amateur nationals. It was supported by the group to put a plan together and approach the AKC.

Hob Brown commented he is friends with the Chairman of the AKC. Hob said he would call Ron and visit with him, let him know what we would like to do, and ask how we can work with the AKC.

We had some conversation as to the reason for promoting the amateur and grow the sport. Tom reported the NCC started as every two years and was changed to every year because the dogs are at the top of the game for a very short time. Tom commented past FTC discussion was to move the NCC from every year to every other. We had discussion last year about holding the open and amateur alternating years. Tom commented we need to have the open every year as well as an amateur.

A.R. questioned why we were concerned about the amateur stakes when the Texas Trials coming up have so very few dogs entered. Concern expressed about the cocker trials going backward. 14-18 cockers entered and 30 plus entered in a one day Springer event. Conversation as to the expense of trials, distance of travel and lack of new people trialing.

Hob commented we need to build the amateurs to grow. We have the same group running all the time. It is important to get the amateurs to get the sport to grow. Sue commented she has noted the amateur stakes well attended as compared to the open side in some recent trials in California.

More discussion to follow growing the amateur numbers. More Springer Trials, more dogs and less distances to travel. The cocker Trials are fewer and farther distance apart. It was felt the Pro's are running fewer dogs and not traveling the circuit as much. Sue commented on the cost of flying a dog these days. We do have many hurdles to get over in this sport.

Print Program discussed. Tom talked about the survey we did last year. 40% leave it as is, 30% drop it, 30% keep it but with changes. Total of 70% voted to keep the program. It was noted in the minutes of the ECSCA January 9, 2009 meeting that the ECSCA Board recommended a separate account be established for the print program managed by the ECSCA Treasurer with close monitoring by the FTC. We need to find a way to dedicate the 1000.00 funding. A.R. stated he would look into possibly securing some donations to be put toward the print program. Tom asked A.R. to put some thought into the print program.

Buzz to check with Sue Rose on the inventory of prints for the next meeting. Discussion as to ways to sell the prints. Comment as to the market is flooded with prints from groups like Rough Grouse Society and others.

Tom discussed the agenda item dealing with judging criteria as proposed by the judges committee. **The new criteria for judging an event is 12 points between the 2 judges. We need to get this information out to all clubs as they are in the process of putting together events for the year.**

Other discussion on judging quality and integrity talked about. Having more than two judges at the NCC. Other discussion focused on looking at the system used in the UK, training programs for judges, testing, etc. Tom will contact the judging committee for further input. More discussion to follow next meeting on judging requirements.

Sue asked Tom to send the information put together on the gunning program. Tom to send out the gunning criteria.

It was decided to have meetings every 3 weeks. Next meeting Tuesday February 24, 2009 at 7 pm central time.

Submitted by
Buzz Benson