

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
Field Trial Committee

Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2015
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Members Present: Deb Strohl, Mike Schroeder, Vicky Thomas, Robert Griffin, Keith Meissner, Joe DeMarkis

- I. Call to order was made at 8:10pm
- II. Approval of the agenda a motion was made by Mike and seconded by Keith
- III. Unfinished Business
 - a) 2016 NCC Bids. Deb reported that Chris Dartt / Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association will be meeting with the landowners to look at the grounds and determine possible beats for the series . They will submit a proposal to the FTC by the June 1st deadline.
 - b) Eastern Representative Vacancy. Keith reported that all Eastern Region Cocker Field Trialers & ECSCA members were contacted via e-mail requesting nominations to fill the Eastern Region vacancy. There wasn't a current list at hand, so Keith's mailing was checked by several people in NY, Maine, Pennsylvania, and appeared to be a complete list. Keith received 10 responses with nominations for Pete Rizzo of Tompkins Cove, NY. There were no other nominations. Therefore, the FTC determined to appoint Pete as the Eastern Region FTC Representative noting his ECSCA membership application is pending with the ECSCA BOD. Robert suggested to invite Pete to the FTC meetings prior to his approval to the ECSCA so that he could be brought up to speed on the matters that we are discussing, but in a non-voting capacity until his ECSCA membership has been approved.
 - a. Vicky noting the lack of an Eastern email list, inquired who keeps an updated list of Cocker Field Trialers, Robert suggested that the regional reps keep an updating the list and submit those updates to the FTC Chairman.
 - c) 2015 NCC Jim Karlovec will be bringing the FTC a budget and that the FTC is here to support and help with the NCC.

IV. New Business

Increasing ECSCA field trial interest membership Joe initiated a discussion regarding increasing field membership within our Parent club. Vicky, Robert and Keith all reported that people ~~that~~ they talked to felt that there wasn't a value for field trailers to join the ECSCA. How do we show that there is a value? Joe felt people didn't realize that the ECSCA is a necessary step for the AKC to approve Cocker Field Trials, they provide the license to sponsor the NCC and several other unseen benefits. Joe and Kim Wiley outlined some of those benefits and Joe requested the FTC review the document showing what the ECSCA provides for Field Trialers. Joe stated that we don't have a large enough presence in the ECSCA and we need to increase our Field membership in order to get more value ~~for~~ from the ECSCA. How do we make field trailers

want to join the ECSCA? Vicky suggested we could begin to “brand” our own field membership within ECSCA. One of the things we could do is to create a letterhead-used when distributing FTC minutes. Another suggestion would be to honor new members by introducing them at the NCC . Within the FTC minutes we could list FTC members. We will approach the following steps to gain new ECSCA members

1. Review the document “What the ECSCA does for us”
2. List all ECSCA members with field interest in the newsletter/FTC Minutes.
3. Acknowledge all new members in the newsletter with a short bio about them.
4. Acknowledge all new & old members at the NCC by listing them in the catalog
5. Give a ECSCA hat to the new members at the NCC (Deb will contact John Dartt about creating a ECSCA/FTC member hat)

b) Procedure for approving Field Trials Joe has been in contact with Nadine from fieldcockers.com and Ledell from AKC. All field trials need to be approved by the FTC before the FTC can send it to the AKC for approval and then it will be sent to fieldcockers.com for posting on the website. Joe has created a document with all the necessary information that is needed for approval. This form will need to be filled out in order to get approval from the FTC to hold a trial. This document can be found of fieldcockers.com under “Info for Field Trial Secretaries” which can be downloaded and filled out to be sent to the FTC for approval. This will also include a list of results to be filled out and reported to fieldcockers.com

c) Field Trial Liaison to the BOD was tabled till the next meeting

d) 1st Quarter FTC Chair report to the BOD was tabled till the next meeting

e) Mission Statement Revision from Sue Rose was tabled till the next meeting.

f) Vicky reported Lisa Brown suggested that consider having a rotational NCC schedule from the East, to the Mid-West, then West region, giving regions a chance to preorganize and prepare for their region to host the NCC on a regular basis. Mike noted that in the past this was how the NCC was organized. This idea will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Vicky reported that in an email discussing the Mission Statement ~~contact~~ with Sue Rose, and Sue mentioned that there was no field representation at the ECSCA Board meeting in Portland OR. This brought up a discussion about “Do we need to have representation at the Board meetings and how do we go about making sure that we are represented at the meeting?” Mike felt that we could appoint a representative to attend the meeting if we were informed there wasn’t a representative attending. Joe will contact Rumi Schroder and Kim Wiley about the dates of the upcoming meetings, so we will know when they are and we can work on having representation-.

g) Robert was concerned that clubs were scheduling trials on the same weekends in similar regions and that it was creating lower attendance at other trials. That some clubs traditional dates were getting double booked by other clubs just outside the region and are drawing the trialers from in between regions creating a low entry. Joe felt that this problem is now solved by having the FTC approve the trial dates rather than just the FTC chairman. Deb noted that WNY is having

a trial this fall on the same date as Fox Valley and that will draw trialers away from both trials creating lower entries for both clubs. Montana has to cancel its spring trial because Fox Valley drew several of their entries.

V. A motion was made for adjournment at 10:11pm Eastern Time

VI. Next FTC Meeting Tuesday June 30th, 2015 8:00 pm Eastern Time