

## **ECSCA FTC MINUTES – March 09, 2010**

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

**Guests:** Tom Meyer (AKC) and Paul McGagh (Chair FTC Judges Sub-Committee)

Minutes from the meeting on 2/09/10 were approved.

### **Cocker Field Trial Judge Criterion:**

Tom Meyer asked the FTC to develop a criterion to be used in qualifying cocker field trial judges. Judging seminars have turned out to be “watered down” versions of what they were meant to be, so that may not be the answer. Tom encouraged us to promote a program where new judges are selected from 1) those who have experience in handling a cocker in a field trial situation 2) are willing to take a written test, and 3) have spent time in an apprenticeship under highly qualified cocker judges.

Paul McGagh explained that the FTC judge’s sub-committee in 2008 had voluntarily developed criteria that recommended clubs **select judges who together had a collective total of 12 judging assignments in 5 different venues**. He favored pairing a highly qualified judge with years of experience with a more novice judge in order to grow and expand the pool of qualified cocker field trial judges.

Buzz Benson indicated he would send Tom Meyer a copy of the committee report.

Tom Meyer wanted to know if/how the clubs use of these criteria was being monitored. He further explained that the AKC is not interested in mandating cocker field trial judge requirements at this time, but would encourage the ECSCA to send a strong recommendation to clubs to adhere to the approved criteria as it currently stands. After the 2010 trial season he would like to review how it is going.

On an aside, Paul stated that trials run in the U.S. are substantially different than those in the UK, as far as “taking runners”, and that utilizing judges from the UK may in fact set us back in what we are trying to accomplish here. Others mentioned that the terrain and

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temperature here provide another variable, and that care should be given in selecting a judging panel.

### **FTC Liaison Position:**

Buzz Benson clarified that, per a conversation with Terri Burrows, the ECSCA Board of Directors wants the FTC Chair to be the liaison between the FTC committee and the Board. This will keep the communication lines uniform between the Board and ALL ECSCA committees. The FTC Chair will handle the official communication **to the Board of Directors**. This has eliminated the position currently occupied by Dede Griffin, who was thanked and commended for her time and service. Sue Rose explained that she had been appointed by the Board to act as the liaison **from the Board to the community** at large with regard to field events be they working tests, hunt tests or field trials. She will provide historical facts and data as requested, and will attend any committee meetings at the committee's request. Hers is a non-voting position, and she reports directly to the Board of Directors.

### **English Cocker Spaniel AKC Breed Flyer:**

The committee reviewed the second draft of the "ECSCA Breed Handout for AKC" and unanimously approved it with one word change as follows: "Some referred to as field-bred or working English Cockers, have been selectively bred to **retain** (replaced "emphasize") their hunting traits.

### **NCC 2011 Proposals:**

Buzz has received requests from both the Minnesota and Maine clubs to host the NCC in 2011. Olivia suggested that they submit a formal proposal including photos of the trial grounds so that the FTC has more information before making a final decision and recommendation to the Board. Dennis mentioned that previous NCC events were selected for being geographically centered in the middle of the U.S. in order to encourage attendance by saving on transportation costs, etc.

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**New Business:**

Hob Brown has received an offer from Rob Cotiaux to donate a trophy from Ruth Greening (given originally by the Garvin family/Noel Cacchio). This trophy is to be given yearly to the **“Top Amateur Woman Handler”** based on a combination of amateur and open stake placements. The committee was generally in favor and asked Hob to have Rob submit a written proposal for further review at the next meeting. Sue Rose explained that a “challenge trophy” had winners names engraved on it; that a replica was given to the winner; and that the trophy remained in the possession of the club.

**Weighted High Point Stat in Addition to current High Point Stat:**

The committee felt this discussion was going to be a lengthy one and due to the late hour, the topic was deferred to our next meeting.

Dennis Joannides suggested that the FTC try to have more discussions via e-mails between meetings on pending topics. This may enable us to bring closure on more topics during the meetings.

**Our next meeting: Tuesday 4/13/10 – 8:00PM EST**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Wilson