

March 12, 2006

Mr. Robert Murdock, President
English Springer Spaniel National Amateur Championship
1603 E. 56th Ave.
Hutchinson, KS 67502

Mr. Robert Montler, President
English Springer Spaniel National Championship
RR #3 Box 430F
Altoona, PA 16601

Dear Mr. Murdock and Mr. Montler:

I am writing on behalf of the Tilden Valley ESS Club and in support of Southern Wisconsin Sporting Spaniel Club's request to add to the agendas of the 2006 National Open and National Amateur delegates meetings an item, the purpose of which is to determine the delegates' support for, or lack thereof, a task force to consider the purchase or lease of "permanent" grounds at which to hold future National Championships.

I have polled our Club members and all are in agreement that this issue is of sufficient importance to justify a serious investigation into the pros and cons of anchoring our National Championships geographically.

We find merit in some of the arguments for establishing permanent grounds, particularly those concerning the unpredictability of future governmental actions impacting land use for hunting and shooting sports, and those predicting a beneficial effect on the fall trial schedule.

We do, however, have reservations about establishing permanent grounds. Our primary, though not our sole, concern is finding grounds with the wide variety of cover necessary to truly test our spaniels. We would expect that any grounds under consideration as a permanent location will have areas of cover tougher than is to be found in the majority of field trials held today; after all, the goal of the National Championships should be to crown the "Best of the Best" and boldness to cover must be tested.

Should this item be added to the agendas and subsequently approved by the delegates, we would expect the taskforce to undertake a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits of obtaining permanent grounds and presenting the findings to the member clubs *prior to* putting before them a set of potential locations for the National Championships. This analysis, at a minimum, should address financial implications, legal and liability concerns, property management and operations issues, effects on the regular trial season schedule and the consequences for the National Championships, administratively, logistically, and the impact on potential entrants across the country.

If, in the end, the member clubs approve the concept of buying or leasing permanent grounds, then we would recommend initiating a public discussion (intra-club, inter-club, via the various spaniel-related discussion boards, etc.) to develop a list of criteria against which to measure the suitability of any particular location. A "grounds search" committee would identify a number of locations that meet these criteria and submit to the clubs for their review reports on each of the qualified properties.

Again, the Tilden Valley ESS Club supports SWSSC's request for an agenda item to discuss the setting up of an initial taskforce and we appreciate your consideration of the views expressed in this letter.

Sincerely,



Archie Hendrick
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