

National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Owatonna, MN at 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Don Brunn. He outlined the rules that should be followed during the meeting. Discussion and voting would be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, only delegates would be allowed to participate in discussions and all votes would be made by raising the delegate paddle.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

A roll call was taken. Delegates for forty-seven clubs were present which constitutes a quorum.

Acceptance of Central Virginia ESSFTC as a Member Club

The Central Virginia Club, a previous member club, has had a hiatus in its activities. It is again approved for and planning to hold field trials and would like to participate as a member club.

Motion

Steve Beyer moved and Cathy Lewis seconded a motion to accept as a member club the Central Virginia ESSFTC.

Motion approved.

Acceptance of Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting

Motion

Cathy Lewis moved and Steve Beyer seconded a motion that the minutes as published and distributed be approved.

Motion approved

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

Motion

Russ Smith moved and Jeff Brooks seconded a motion that the Treasurer's report as published and distributed be approved.

Motion approved

Election of Officers

Dick Vermazen gave the report and recommendation of the nominating committee. The slate of officers nominated for 2008 are as follows:

President	Gary Wilson
First Vice President	Steve Beyer
Second Vice President	Don Mock
Secretary/Treasurer	Mhari Peschel

Motion

Jerry Barrett moved and Kurt Caldwell seconded a motion that the slate of officers as presented be elected by acclamation.

Motion unanimously approved.

Announcement of Judges for the 2008 National Open Championship

Don Brunn announced that the judges elected to serve as judges for the 2008 National Open Championship were John Leininger and Jim O'Shea

Member Club Dues for 2008

Motion

Russ Smith moved and Brent LeMaster seconded a motion the member club dues for 2008 be \$75.00 per club.

Motion approved

Presentation of Location for the 2008 National Open Championship

Gary Wilson made a presentation to have the National Open Championship for 2008 in Howard New York beginning November 8, 2008. A written Summary of his proposal was included with all of the delegate packets. While some details contained in the written proposal may change slightly the grounds and dates are those that are recommended.

Motion

Mike Wallace moved and Roy Hopkins seconded a motion that the National Open Championship for 2008 be held beginning November 8, 2008 in Howard, New York.

Motion approved

Qualification for the 2008 National Open

Gary Wilson made a presentation which supported his proposal to require two points for qualification for the 2008 National Open. A written proposal was included in the delegate packets and had also been posted online.

Bill Boeckman commented that it was a good proposal but he felt that one of the reasons that the 2007 National Championship had so many entries was because of the location of the 2007 National Amateur. He felt that we needed to return to having the location of both the National Open and the National Amateur in the same Interclub.

Gary Wilson stated that it was time for some change and that his proposal was attempting to implement a small change with respect to the qualification for and size of the trial.

Jim Keller stated that he liked the idea and he wondered how many dogs were entered that had only one point. Mhari Peschel stated that there were approximately 20 dogs entered that qualified with one point. (Note: Dogs entered with one point were 23.)

Kurt Caldwell stated that he thinks that dogs with their championship titles should need only one point.

Mark Hairfield asked about a system that would calculate the points necessary for qualification based on the top 120 dogs plus ties from the previous year. (Note: If that method were used the points necessary for qualification would be 3 points.)

Chuck Nelson said that he thought that the qualification requirement should be placement in two trials rather than the number of points.

Steve Beyer commented that he had a dog that only had one placement- a win in a sixty-six dog stake, shouldn't that qualify a dog for entry in the National.

Jeff Brooks said that he thinks it is a good idea and that it is time for a change and that he supports the proposal.

Bill Boeckman questioned as to how the formula referred to by Mark Hairfield would work. How would you know how many points you needed. Mark responded that you would know because it is based on the prior year placements.

Karen Koopman felt that the two point qualification was the simplest because it is fixed.

Jim Keller would like to keep the change in place for multiple years to see how it works. Gary Wilson told him that it is currently in the By-Laws to set the qualification each year.

Mark Hairfield said that he has heard that some people think that the National should only be a seventy-five dog trial. Is this an attempt to get it down to seventy-five entries.

Gary Wilson stated that we would try this for a year. He thinks it will limit the entries somewhat but probably not as few as seventy-five.

Don Brunn then called for a motion.

Motion

Ben Martin moved and Jeff Brooks seconded a motion to require two points for qualification for the 2008 National Open Championship.

The motion was approved. 34 in favor 13 opposed.

Entry Fees for the 2008 National Open Championship

Motion

Doug Miller moved and Jerry Barrett seconded a motion that the entry fee for the 2008 National Open be \$200.00

Motion approved

Report of the Land Task Force

Steve Beyer reported that the committee that was formed after last years National had met. The committee includes Dean Reinke , David Hopkins and Alex Kerr representing the Parent Club, Mike Wallace and Greg Wharton representing the National Open and Steve Beyer and Bob Iversen representing the National Amateur.

Steve Beyer stated that the purpose of this committee was not to acquire land rather to determine if there is land available to be used for National Field trials if they so choose. They have met with people in Tennessee to get an idea about availability. There is land available but will need to be cultivated to suit the needs of Spaniel Field Trials. The committee is continuing to meet and gather information.

Proposed By-law Change to Change the Selection Process for National Open Judges

The proposed by law change was submitted in writing with the recommendation of two delegates. This proposal has been mailed to member clubs and has been posted online.

Don Brunn asked for discussion regarding this proposal.

Gary Wilson had a question about requiring potential judges to have competed in trials. He felt that this may limit the availability of good judges.

Bill Boeckman stated that this was to align this with the requirements of the National Amateur.

Mike Wallace stated that he felt it was important to be currently competing. He noted that when he come back to judge after a hiatus in the sport he didn't feel that he was as sharp as when he was also currently competing.

There was discussion about making a motion to leave the process the same or trying to significantly amend the proposal. Don Bramwell stated that this proposal had been mailed to the member clubs. Delegates had instructions as to how to vote. If it was changed significantly at this point delegates might feel uncomfortable about voting.

Mark Haglin made a motion to keep the process the same. There was no second and Steve Beyer stated that why propose that motion that would be a waste of time. Why not just vote on the proposal.

Motion

Chuck Nelson moved and Karen Koopman seconded a motion to amend the By-Laws in accordance with the written proposal. Exhibit 1

Motion approved 36 in favor and 11 opposed

Proposal for Modifying the Composition of the Board of Directors

David Hopkins reviewed his proposed amendment to the By-Laws to amend the composition of the Board of Directors to facilitate continuity of the Board. This proposal had been made at the prior years meeting but was not voted upon.

He noted that it would require a waiver of notice to vote upon this proposal as it was not submitted by two delegates. If such a waiver were approved he would envision that this proposal would be implemented by next years nominating committee.

Gary Wilson questioned what would be the role of the additional directors envisioned by the proposal. Would they have the ability oversee a National Field Trial or could they change the direction of the National Field Trial?

David Hopkins did not expect that that would be the case but he did feel that their role would evolve.

Steve Beyer said that he could see how these additional Board members could affect the putting on of a National at some point.

Karen Koopman stated that the current system works because people are lected for one year and they are fully accountable. Their focus is on putting on the best National that

they can. With this proposal we are thinking about giving someone a three year term who may not have the same focus and could diminish the control of the delegates.

Jeff Brooks said that since the nominating committee would only be recommending three names to fill these positions there wouldn't really be any choice. Don Bramwell noted that nominations could be made from the floor which would give the delegates input.

Motion

Steve Beyer moved and Jerry Barrett seconded a motion waive the notice requirement for voting on this proposal.

Motion failed 14 Approved 23 Opposed (this would have required a 2/3 vote in favor)

There will be no vote on the proposal.

Discussion of Newly implemented Conflict of Interest Policy

Steve Beyer summarized the background which led to the recommendation of a policy that would not allow a professional to judge a handler that had been a client within a one year period. The concept was that someone should not judge someone from whom he receives money. A member of a club in the East had asked that an emergency meeting be held to expand this rule to preclude an Amateur from judging a professional with whom he has a financial relationship.

Steve Beyer, Field Vice President of the Parent Club, said that he would request discussion of this matter at the delegate meetings at both Nationals that could be taken to the Board of Governors meeting that will be held in May.

Bill Boeckman asked if this was an ethical question. Karen Koopman asked for clarification of when this proposal goes into affect. Mhari Peschel said she had received notification from the AKC that it would go into affect January 1, 2008.

Russ Smith stated that if we're talking about conflict of interest what about guns shooting in a trial where their dogs are running.

Gary Wilson questioned whether it was really up to the field trial committee to determine if they would accept an entry or not.

Dave Granatir stated that we need to remember that these are AKC events where dogs earn AKC points and that we should follow the AKC rules.

Mike Wallace said that you hate to try to legislate ethics but he doesn't see how the limitation can only go one way.

John Hall was attending the meeting but not as a delegate. He wanted people to remember that if an Amateur were selected to judge the National Open and he had used a professional that would preclude that professional from entering any dog in the National.

Bill Boeckman asked about judges that had already accepted assignments.

Don Bramwell stated that a friend or training partner might have just as much advantage with a judge as a person with whom he has a financial relationship.

Karen Koopman stated that what Steve Beyer was looking for was a direction to take to the Board of Governors meeting.

Jeff Brooks asked what rules we look to, the AKC rules or the Parent Club rules. Steve Beyer said that the AKC looks to the Parent Club for direction and implementation of rules.

A straw vote was taken to indicate the feeling of the group.

Those who felt the relationship should include both directions	32
Those who felt the relationship should only include the pro	6

Limitation of Training on National Open Trial Grounds

The Green Valley Club had requested that this issue be discussed at the National Open Delegates meeting. Steve Beyer noted that this issue has been discussed before and that it is up to the Field Trial Committee to monitor where training occurs.

Mark Hairfield stated that we were the only breed that didn't have a rule about this issue.

Don Bramwell stated that this goes to the integrity of the sport. Not everything can or should require a rule.

There was no further discussion.

Seed Awn Task Force

Cathy Lewis who is the co-chair of the Seed Awn Task Force for the Parent Club noted that Canadian Wild Rye has been determined to be a huge problem. While the Field Trial Committee has made an effort to identify and avoid this grass in the trial areas it does exist in some of the parking areas. She wanted people to be aware of its existence.

Time for Annual Meeting for 2008

Mhari Peschel requested that a meeting time be set for the Delegates meeting in 2008.

Motion

Gary Wilson moved and Kurt Caldwell seconded a motion that the Annual Delegates Meeting would be held at 3 p.m. on November 7, 2008.

Motion approved 34 in favor 7 opposed

Adjournment of Meeting

Karen Koopman moved and Ben Martin seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion approved.