

Draft

National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Days Inn-Bath Motel in Bath, New York at 3 pm on Friday November 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Wilson. 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-six clubs were present which constitutes a quorum.

Acceptance of Central Maine Spaniel Club and the Susquehanna Valley ESSC as member clubs

The Central Maine Spaniel Club will be holding a licensed field trial in the spring of 2009 and has members who have been actively involved in spaniel trials. The Susquehanna Valley ESSC is a club that has been active in hunt tests and show activities and will be holding a licensed field trial. It includes in its membership people who have been actively involved in field trialing.

Motion

It was moved and seconded to accept Central Maine Spaniel Club as a member club.

Motion approved.

Motion

It was moved and seconded to accept the Susquehanna Valley ESSC as a member club.

Motion Approved

Acceptance of Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes as published and distributed be approved.

Motion approved
Presidents Message

President Gary Wilson welcomed everyone to Bath, New York for the 2008 National Open Championship. He thanked his committee for all of their hard work and was looking forward to very good championship with good grounds and birds.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

Motion
It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report as published and distributed be approved.

Motion approved

Election of Officers

Ben Martin, acting on behalf of Paul Sehnert gave the report and recommendation of the nominating committee. The slate of officers nominated for 2009 are as follows:

President	Steve Beyer
First Vice President	Don Mock
Second Vice President	George Kittle
Secretary/Treasurer	Mhari Peschel

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the slate of officers as presented be elected by acclamation.

Motion unanimously approved.

Announcement of Judges for the 2009 National Open Championship

Gary Wilson announced that the judges elected to serve as judges for the 2009 National Open Championship were Jerry Barrett and Bill Cosgrove.

Member Club Dues for 2008

Motion
Mike Knudsen moved and Ed Faraci seconded a motion that member club dues for 2009 be \$75.00 per club.

Motion approved

Presentation of Location for the 2009 National Open Championship

Steve Beyer gave a presentation (a written presentation was included in each delegate packet) summarizing the proposal to have the 2009 National Open Championship.

The proposed location for the 2009 National Open Championship is Mayetta, Kansas and the proposed starting date is November 29, 2009. The Field Trial Chairman will be Bill Willett and the Gun Captain will be John Knowles.

Steve asked for questions. Julie Hogan asked if there wasn't some discussion in earlier years that we should try to avoid travel on Thanksgiving weekend since that is a very busy travel weekend. She also asked why the Nationals (both Open and Amateur) are going to be together. She noted that it was a long time for people to be away from their businesses if they attended both.

Steve responded that it used to be this way and in fact was also this way in 2004 when the RMIC hosted the National Open and the Midwest IC hosted the National Amateur.

Jim Keller noted that if the trial is held in late November it allows clubs more flexibility in pushing their trial dates later to try and avoid the hot weather trials that have been a problem in recent years.

John Leininger suggested that perhaps the Nationals should be held in January and in that way would avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Skip Smith asked what the time spread between the Open and Amateur would be. Steve Beyer responded that the Amateur was going to be scheduled to start nine days after the proposed starting date of the Open.

Motion

Cathy Lewis moved and Bob Montler seconded a motion to accept the proposal as presented.

Karen Koopman asked if Steve would be willing to move the starting date back one day to November 30, 2009 to allow more time for travel following the Thanksgiving holiday. Steve responded that if the delegates voted to do that he would accept it. A vote of the delegates was taken as a poll.

33 delegates in favor of moving the start date to November 30, 2009
12 delegates opposed to moving the start date to November 30, 2009

The motion was not voted upon as presented.

Motion

Jason Green moved and it was seconded that the National Open Championship for 2009 be held beginning Monday November 30, 2009 in Mayetta, Kansas.

Motion approved

Qualification for the 2009 National Open

Gary Wilson stated that the qualification for entry in the National Open was changed last year and required that two points be necessary to qualify for entry. He asked if there was any discussion about continuing to require two points.

Motion

It was moved and seconded to require two points for qualification for the 2009 National Open Championship.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Closing dates for the 2009 National Open Championship

Gary Wilson stated that the current closing dates for the National was a two tier system- the first closing was for all dogs that were qualified as of eighteen days before the start of the championship trial and a second closing for dogs that earned their qualification in trials that were held between eighteen days and eleven days before the start of the championship trial. Janet Christensen asked what those dates would be for 2009. Those dates would be Thursday, November 12, 2009 for the “first tier” closing and Thursday November 19 for the “second tier” closing.

Motion

Bob Montler moved and it was seconded that the closing dates for the 2009 National Open Championship would be November 12 (first tier) and November 19 (second tier).

The motion was unanimously approved.

Entry Fees for the 2009 National Open Championship

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the entry fee for the 2009 National Open be \$200.00

A question was asked about whether the cost of birds might require a higher entry fee.

Motion unanimously approved

Time for Annual Meeting for 2009

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

Motion

Steve Beyer made a motion that the meeting be held on November 29, 2009 at 3 pm unless there are issues which will require extended discussion in which case the meeting could be moved up to 1 pm. The motion was seconded

Motion unanimously approved

Other Business-Discussion of Judge Selection Procedure

Janet Christensen stated that she doesn't like the current process for judges selection because most dogs that are entered are with professionals and it allows a couple of professionals to get together and in effect select the judges by directing their clients votes. She thinks it might be better to go back to the club voting process.

Mhari Peschel reminded the group the process was approved as a by-law change and that changing this procedure at this meeting would require, as David Hopkins pointed out, a vote of the delegates to waive notice of any change which would require a 2/3 majority vote before any change could be made.

Ed Faraci stated that he might like to see a group selected by vote but then a random selection from that selected group.

Bob Montler pointed out that with the club voting system the clubs were not always represented well and that there were cases where the person who voted did not follow the wishes of the club.

Billy Akkouris asked how the process currently works and it was outlined for the group. Betsey Battistoni asked if someone is actually checking on ownership of the dogs prior to voting. Mhari Peschel stated that she relies on the information that is in the catalogs that are submitted by the trial secretaries.

Skip Smith commented that it may be a problem which results in a distribution of votes that results in no single judge receiving a lot of votes.

Janet Christensen considered a motion to return the voting procedure to the previous process. This would require a vote to waive notice. Mhari Peschel commented that she has not seen a vote to waive notice be successful because most delegates felt they needed to discuss these matters with their club prior to making significant changes. Janet Christensen then withdrew her consideration of a motion.

Motion

Ed Faraci moved and Gary Wilson seconded a motion to waive the notice provision of the bylaws in order to consider a change to the judge selection procedure.

**In favor 5
Opposed 25**

The motion failed.

Jim Keller stated that perhaps a group needed to come up with a recommendation. Karen Koopman stated that she felt there would be one or more cogent proposals regarding the judge selection process that would be submitted by summer of 2009 and could be distributed to the clubs for discussion.

Clarification of Open Points

Karen Koopman asked if we could again state in the minutes the time period used for calculating high point open dog and national qualifications.

Mhari Peschel agreed to again put this in the minutes (it originally appeared in 2006.)

High Point Open Dog From the National Open Championship to the start of the succeeding National Open Championship

Points for Qualification for entry From the closing date of the National Open Championship to the closing date for the succeeding National Open Championship

Karen Koopman asked for an update on the rule that would disallow an amateur from judging a professional with whom he had had a business relationship with in the preceding twelve months.

Mhari Peschel said that the proposal had been submitted to the AKC and that the AKC felt it should be submitted to the other spaniel parent clubs prior to approval. That was currently being undertaken.

Field Trial Chairman Presentation

Roger Schenone welcomed everyone to the trial. He noted that there would be a shuttle leaving the hotel at 6:30 am to go to the grounds and that the trial would end no later than 5 pm each day. There will be shuttles to assist in getting handlers to the line. Gary Wilson noted that there will be signs designating parking areas as well as areas where you can safely air dogs.

Adjournment of Meeting

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

Motion approved.