

The 2008 National Amateur Delegates Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Lima, OH on Sunday, December 6, 2008.

The General Chairman John Leininger called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

A roll call was taken. Delegates for fifty clubs were present, which constitutes a quorum. Central Main Spaniel Club and the Susquehanna Valley ESS Club were represented as new clubs and included in the quorum.

A motion was submitted to accept the 2007 minutes as posted on essft.com. The motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

A motion was submitted to accept the 2007 treasures report as posted on essft.com. The motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

Steve Beyer, Hall of Fame selection committee spokesman, of which there are seven members, stated that Don Brunn had been selected for a three year term for this committee. Don had to resign. Steve made a motion that the delegates accept Kerm Gillund to replace Don. The motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

#### MAJOR DECISIONS

Dave Granatir gave a report on the Nominating Committee for 2009, 2010 and 2011. Tim Lindsey is this year's Chair. Dan Hale, Jerry Barrett, Greg Wharton and Dave Granatir are on the committee.

A motion was made to accept Dean Reinke as the 2009 General Chair, Mike Wallace as the 2010 General Chair and Bill Willett as the 2011 General Chair. The motion also included Pat Bramwell to be Field Trial Secretary for the respective years. It was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

It was announced that Pete Rainey & Kathy Nestor will be the 2009 NAC judges.

A motion was submitted to keep the 2009 club dues at \$75.00. This motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

A motion was submitted to keep the 2009 entry fee at \$200.00. This motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

A motion was submitted to keep the 2009 qualification points at 2. This motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and then there was discussion.

Connie Kieckhefer didn't think it made any difference in the number of dogs entered this year with only 2 points.

Ed Faraci is inclined to go back to 1 point.

Steve Beyer thinks that if we keep jumping back and forth we'll never know what works.

Peter Renwich thinks we need to look at other factors ie the economy. Could we have even fewer entries next year?

Gary Wilson thinks we need to get the entries down. We have talked about 100 entries. He thinks we accomplished it this year. By keeping the entries down to 100 it makes the trial more manageable, there is less stress on the grounds and the guns. He would like to "sit on it" a couple of years to see how it works out.

John Riepenhoff stated that with every entry there is three return trips to the line at 20 minutes. This means we're talking about an extra day for every extra 10 dogs ran. The NAC's intent is to complete the NAC in five days. Every day we run we are adding more cost for personal and trial expenses.

A vote was called. The motion to keep the qualification points at 2 passed.

A motion was made to keep the closing date 19 days prior to the start of the NAC. The motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed. The closing date will be Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Bramwell asked a question from Mhari Peschel as to why does the Parent Club needs to pay membership dues. It was decided that because all membership dues go into an operating fund to pay for postage, rings, and other fees, they should pay dues like the other clubs. A motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed that the Parent club should continue paying membership dues.

Dean Reinke and Tom Schoene gave a report on the 2009 NAC.

Trial will start on Monday, December 7, 2009

Location: Pyramid State Park, Pickneyville, IL

Meeting/training: Sunday, December 6, 2009

Gun Captain: Waldo Prock

Head Field Marshall: Cathy Lewis

Grounds: Tom Schoene and Marty Knibbs

Fundraising: Greg Wharton

Banquet & Hospitality: Kate Renwick & Sharon Mueller

FT Committee: Dean Reinke, Jerry Barrett, Greg Wharton, Bill Willett, Marty Knibbs, Mike Leonetti, Dan Langhans & Jason Green

Headquarters: Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center

2300 Reed Station Parkway

Carbondale, IL 62901

618 549 2600

Dog friendly

Airports: St Louis, MO (STL) 120 miles

Memphis, TN (MEM) 227 miles

Indianapolis, IN (IND) 260 miles

Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD) 350 miles

A motion was made to accept, in full, the report and information given by Dean and Tom. This motion was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

Last year a straw vote was taken that a client cannot judge a pro. It was questioned where we are on this subject. All work is done by the Parent Club. The proposal is sitting on AKC's desk. They are waiting to hear from the Cocker clubs. AKC is not in favor of this new rule but they will pass it if that is what "we" want.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Last year it was decided that the NAC could not start before December 1 of each year. Don Bramwell thinks we made a mistake. He stated that the last three years we've had to drive on ice and/or snow; and he would like it to go back to the Interclub would get to choose their own dates. Another problem is finding open water. Don made a motion to strike the language from last year's motion to read that the Interclub pick their own dates. It was accepted and 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was discussion.

Russ Smith would like to shorten the closing date if this motion is passed.

George Akkouris agrees and we should do what is best for the NAC.

General Chair Leininger asked "All in favor of changing when the Interclub picks their NAC dates." This was also 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed. It was agreed that this would become effective with the 2010 NAC. It was also agreed that if the NAC wants to run before the NOC that would not be a problem.

There was a lot of discussion on setting forth the actual guidelines as to what dates should be used for the judges ballots. There was a lot of discussion on if you only received one point for the qualifying period are you eligible to vote for judges. Also discussed was if you qualified as a NAFC in previous years are you qualified to vote for judges.

There was a motion made to table these discussion items so the clubs would have a chance to look these items over. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> but Mark Haglin informed us that this motion could not be tabled.

A motion was made that our qualification for voting for NAC judges follow qualification of our dogs for that year's NAC. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dean Reinke made a motion to table this motion. This motion was accepted and 2<sup>nd</sup>. General Chair Leininger asked for a paddle motion on the motion to table. 24 were in favor of tabling the motion; 23 were not in favor of tabling.

The next item was about previous NAC winners. Do they get a vote for life of the dog? Do the votes go with the dog or the handler or the owner? Should the vote go with competing dogs?

Tim Edwards presented his proposal so that the delegates would have time to take the proposal to their clubs. This proposal will be as an attachment to these minutes.

In regard to Item #7 – when judges ballots would be returned to the secretary. Tim suggested that the 5 top vote getters would be announced and their names put in a hat and 3 names would be randomly chosen. This would eliminate any manipulations.

Mike Wallace was not in favor of leaving it to chance. He believes we have problems with our judging system that need to be addressed. To reduce to “bingo games” is not the way to go.

Skip Smith suggested we vote twice.

Dean Reinke believes the majority should rule, not left to chance.

Ed Faraci stated it would be a “random drawing” not “bingo”. There is too much politicking going on.

Kevin Battistoni would like the “handler” not the “owner” to get the vote

The word “competing” should be inserted.

As of now if you qualify for the 2008 NAC you will get to vote for the 2010 judges. Anyone with only 1 point will not be qualified.

General Chair Leininger said a committee will be formed to clear up the voting for the national judges and a proposal will be presented at the 2009 NAC. The committee will be decided upon by the banquet (Monday eve). A motion was made to form this committee. It was accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> & passed.

Updated 3/26/09 -

Skip Smith moved (Battistoni 2nd)

Given that there were concerns expressed about the procedures used to select judges for the NAC and that we were unable to arrive at a decision at this meeting because a motion for change was not properly presented under the bylaws -

I move that a committee be appointed to:

- 1) evaluate the current and past procedures that we have used to select NAC judges;
- 2) develop a set of alternative approaches for selecting judges, including an analysis of their impacts on the outcome and on our sport;

3) circulate this analysis for discussion and comment by NAC participants; and  
4) prepare a motion for discussion and vote by the 2009 NAC delegates including a clearly described set of alternate selection procedures for NAC judges and an analysis of the likely impacts.

Step 4 should be completed in accordance with the timing and processes for submission of a motion for the delegates meeting of the 2009 NAC.

A friendly amendment was accepted that the general chair appoint a committee to be announced at the banquet on Monday night.

General Chair Leininger said a committee will be formed to review the procedures for voting for the national judges and a proposal will be presented at the 2009 NAC. The committee will be decided upon by the banquet (Monday eve). A motion was made to form this committee. It was accepted, 2nd & passed.

There was a lot of discussion and I have no idea what was said. General Chair Leininger has final say on the committee.

General Chair Leininger stated that if anyone wants something put on the agenda for the meeting it has to be posted no later than 30 days before the meeting or it will not be brought up.

Field Trial Chairman Mike Elsasser gave a report on the fields.

Steve Beyer asked, on behalf of the Parent Club, at what point should a person who was a pro that no longer runs dogs professionally be allowed to run in the amateur. There was discussion.

A motion was made, accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed at 11:25 a.m. to adjourn this meeting until December 2009.

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Bramwell

See Attached 2 pages.

Attachment to 2008 NAC Minutes.

NAC Judges Selection Procedures from Tim Edwards updated December 2

In the last several years, it seems that the process by which we select National judges has

become increasingly complicated and confusing. Last year's attempt to simplify the process was implemented only in part and had the unintended result of leaving the selection process vulnerable to manipulation.

We would like to suggest a "common sense approach," for consideration by the delegates. Acceptance of the proposal at this year's delegates meeting would impact the selection of judges for the 2010 National. Acceptance of the proposal would also bring the time period for "eligibility" to vote on National Judges in line with the time period for "qualifying" to enter the National.

The official announcement of "next year's" NAC judges has traditionally been made at the delegates meeting and we see no reason to change it. Accordingly, this proposal sets the final selection and announcement of National Judges for 2010 to be done at the 2009 Delegates Meeting, as follows:

Qualification for entering the 2009 National and voting on judges for the 2010 National:

1. The Qualification period for entering the 2009 NAC will be from the closing date of entries for the 2008 NAC to the closing date for entries of the 2009 NAC, which should be no more than 21 days prior to the first day of the NAC.
2. The Qualification points for entering the 2009 NAC will be determined by the delegates at their meeting this year. For the 2008 NAC, it was 2 points.
3. The owner of a dog qualified to enter the 2009 NAC will be entitled to cast one vote for the 2010 NAC judges. No owner may cast more than one vote, no matter the number of qualified dogs that he/she might own. If a qualified dog is co-owned, only one co-owner is entitled to cast the vote. In no instance will an owner be entitled to cast more than one vote.
4. A dog that earns a second, third or fourth placement in the 2008 NAC is automatically qualified to enter the 2009 NAC, and the owner of such a dog will be entitled to cast one vote for the 2010 NAC Judges, subject to the "no owner may cast more than one vote" restriction.

A dog that wins the NAC is automatically qualified to enter any subsequent NAC but that does not mean the dog will actually be entered, so we suggest the voting privileges of the owner of that dog be tied to the "active competition" status of the dog. For selection of the 2010 National Judges, this would mean that the owner of any past NAFC entered in the 2009 National, would be entitled to cast one vote, subject to the "no owner may cast more than one vote" restriction. An owner of such a dog would be entitled to cast one vote each year, as long as the dog was entered in the previous year's NAC.

5. The Secretary/Treasurer of the NAC will send the judges ballot for 2010 to owners of dogs meeting the above criteria during the summer of 2009. Additional ballots can be issued along with the qualification package given to placing dogs during the 2009 Fall Trial Season.
6. The judges ballot will consist of a listing of judges that has been reviewed and verified for

meeting the criteria for a National Amateur Judge. Each owner will vote for 6 judges on the list.

7. Ballots will be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer (or another individual appointed by the delegates) no later than the closing date for entries for the 2009 NAC, at which time the ballots will be counted and the names of the top 10 vote getters announced officially.

8. At the 2009 delegates meeting three of the ten names will be drawn, by use of a random selection process such as a "Powerball system." The first two names drawn will be the judges and the third name drawn will be the alternate for the 2010 NAC.

Note on National Judges Criteria:

A prospective National judge shall have judged at least 6 All-Age Field Trials (or 12 All-Age Stakes,) for English Springer Spaniels. Also, the prospective National judge must have handled a dog in two all-age licensed field trials in the US or Canada during the three year period prior to December 31 of the current year's National. For example, a person's eligibility to be included on the judges ballot for 2010 will have been determined as of 12/31/08. Also, by May 2009, the prospective judge will have confirmed in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer his or her willingness to judge the 2010 NAC.