

National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka Kansas at 3:00 pm on November 29, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Beyer.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

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

Acceptance of Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting

Motion

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

Motion approved

Presidents Message

President Steve Beyer welcomed the delegates to Topeka. He thanked his field trial committee and said that there would be a report at the end of the meeting giving additional information regarding the trial. .

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

The nominating committee was asked to give their report. The members of the nominating committee were Tom Schoene, Chair, Jim Keller, Dick Vermazen, John Wright and Ben Martin). The slate of officers nominated for 2009 are as follows:

President	Don Mock
First Vice President	George Kittle
Second Vice President	Chuck Nelson
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 2010 National Open Championship

Steve Beyer announced that the judges elected to serve as judges for the 2010 National Open Championship were Jeff Brooks and Casey Butz.

Member Club Dues for 2010

Motion

It was moved and seconded that member club dues for 2010 be \$75.00 per club.

Motion approved

Presentation of Location for the 2010 National Open Championship

Don Mock gave a presentation (a written presentation was included in each delegate packet) summarizing the proposal to have the 2010 National Open Championship.

The proposed location for the 2010 National Open Championship will be grounds in Pescadero, California which is approximately 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay California with the headquarter hotel being in Half Moon Bay. The proposed starting date is November 15, 2010. The Field Trial Chair will be Paul McGagh and Dan Hale will be the Gun Captain.

Don asked for questions. John Hall asked the reason for choosing the date. Don Mock stated that the availability and pricing for hotel rooms before the Thanksgiving holiday season was much better and also to allow a break for travel time between the National Open on the west coast and the National Amateur which will be on the east coast in 2010. He also noted that the possibility of rain storms would increase as the date was pushed back farther.

Lea Ames asked about the likelihood that rattle snakes would be encountered. Jack Olsen gave a report that he had requested from Jerry Smith, a noted herpetologist from San Jose State University. Mr. Jerry Smith's conclusion was that considering the time of year "overall an encounter is unlikely, but possible".

Cathy Lewis asked if there were any known dangerous grasses in the fields that would be used. Don Mock noted that there were none that he was aware of at that time of year.

Motion

It was moved and seconded to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was approved.

Qualification for the 2010 National Open

Steve Beyer noted that the qualification for the 2009 National Open was two points. He asked for any discussion regarding points.

Russ Smith proposed that it should only be one point especially if the dog has already earned its FC title. He said that trials are large and expensive and if the reason was to make sure a dog was of a caliber to enter the National the FC title should prove that.

Dean Reinke noted that there were approximately 179 dogs that were qualified for entry in 2009 and only 119 entered. He questioned the need for any change in the current point requirement.

John Hall asked for a clarification—did Russ mean 1 point if the dog had earned an FC and 2 points for all others? There was some discussion that since the trial would be on the west coast and since the 2009 National was late enough to include almost all 2009 trials that the numbers that would qualify for entry would be less in 2010 than in 2009. Would this justify a change in the qualification requirement.

Dean Reinke stated that he did not feel that we should be changing the requirements based on the geographic location of the trial.

Jim Keller noted that we seem to be trying to change this each year. If we are trying to manage the size of the National Trial we need to give the system a chance to work over several years before changing it again.

Russ Smith then moved and Ben Martin Seconded a motion that the point requirement for entry in the 2010 National would be 2 points unless the dog had an FC title then it would be one point.

The motion failed 33 Opposed 9 in Favor

It was then moved and seconded that the points for qualification for entry for the 2010 National Open remain at 2 points.

The motion carried 40 in favor 0 against

Closing dates for the 2010 National Open Championship

Connie Kieckhefer then asked about the qualification period for the 2010 National Open. The dates for the 2009 trial were 18 days before the start of the trial for dogs that were qualified and 11 days before the start of the trial for dogs that only earned their qualification between the 18 and 11 day cutoff. If that were carried over to 2010 it would be October 27 and November 4.

Russ Smith asked if the start date of the trial could be moved forward. He was concerned that several trials would not be eligible for qualification. It was noted that whenever the trial is held early in November this is the case. It also makes it difficult to include the high point data in the catalog because trials which are included in the high point statistics occur sometime up to 4 days within the start of the National.

The question was raised as to why the high point data had been changed from closing to closing to National to National. Jeff Brooks was asked to respond since he was instrumental in making that change. He felt that the high point trophy was for the year and that should include all trials from National to National. It also helped handlers to understand what trials were included in the calculation.

Vicky Thomas made a motion that the closing dates be set at 18 days for the first closing and 8 days for the final closing to allow another weekend to be included. Russ Smith Seconded that motion.

There was much discussion about the change and the effect on the entry numbers, the statistics and the catalog. After this discussion the motion was withdrawn by Vicky Thomas.

Dean Reinke moved that the closing dates be 18 days before the start of the trial for the first closing and 11 days before the start of the trial for the second closing for those dogs not previously qualified. Ben Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 41 in favor and 3 opposed.

Entry Fees for the 2010 National Open Championship

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the entry fee for the 2010 National Open be \$200.00

Motion unanimously approved

Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Steve Beyer noted that David Lorenz term had expired. David represents the National Open as a committee member , Steve said they would like to nominate David Lorenz for a second three year term to this committee.

Russ Smith asked who was on the committee. Steve replied that the Chair of the committee is the Field VP from the ESSFTA (currently Steve Beyer), David Lorenz representing the National Open, Kerm Gillund representing the National Amateur, Ben Martin , Dick Vermazen, Pete Rainey and Ray Cacchio.

Steve asked that David Lorenz be re-elected by acclamation. Unanimously approved.

Time for Annual Meeting for 2010

The motion that approved the proposal for the 2010 National Open included the meeting date of November 14, 2010 at 4 pm.

Motion unanimously approved

Other Business-Discussion of Judge Selection Procedure

Mike Wallace discussed the need to “raise the bar” for National judges and to have a process that improved upon the process that was put in place two years ago. Mike was included in a committee that was appointed at the National Amateur that was asked to look into this matter for the National Amateur and he would like to extend some of the same changes to the National Open selection process. A proposed by-law amendment was sent to all member clubs , in writing, with their meeting notice. This proposed amendment was also posted on essft.com. The proposed amendment (See attached) proposes a two tier voting system. The first vote would be for six of the eligible candidates and the second vote would be for two of the finalists.

Cathy Lewis commented that she doesn't think we should have to vote for six because there may not be six candidates on the list that you would like to consider as a National Judge. She would like to change the language to include “up to six” judges.

Lea Ames commented that perhaps we should decrease the number you are required to vote for but still require that you must vote for that number or your ballot would not be counted.

Dean Reinke noted that perhaps we should also consider whether to require that the method selected must remain in effect for at least three years. We keep changing the process without allowing enough time to see if it works.

Dan Murray brought up the suggestion of drawing out of a hat from a final group. There was much discussion about this. Jeff Brooks and others stated that it was an honor to be selected by your peers. The blind draw lessened that honor significantly.

There was much discussion as to whether the amendment should be changed to only require a vote for four or up to four rather than six for the first round of voting. Those in favor of the “up to language” stated their preference that they should not have to vote for someone if they did not feel there were four desirable candidates. Those in favor of the must vote for four stated that they felt the result could be “stacking the deck” in favor of a few candidates.

Mhari Peschel and Dave Hopkins noted that if the language were to be amended there would need to be a vote to waive the notice provisions since this would be different wording than the amendment that was distributed. Mhari Peschel noted that in the past the notice waiver had not been successful but that was in circumstances when no proposed amendment had been circulated to the clubs. The delegates needed to consider whether they were comfortable making this change.

David Hopkins moved to waive the notice required for a by law amendment. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dean Reinke moved to change the language of the original proposal to include in paragraph XI (c) On or before May 31, each eligible voter shall forward to the Secretary one ballot on which he has voted for up to (4) four individuals. This ballot must be submitted by mail, or a scanned e-mail or fax and must include a manual signature

The motion was seconded The motion was approved 45 in favor 1 opposed

Steve Beyer asked if there was any other new business. None was brought up.

Field Trial Chairman Presentation

Steve Beyer again welcomed everyone to the 2009 National Open. He noted where maps were available, the ATV and shuttle policy and the fact that personal shuttles could be made available for \$75/day. and when the caravan would be leaving the hotel in the morning. He invited everyone to attend the Pro Plan reception which would be in this same room at 6 pm and he wished all of the participants luck. .

Adjournment of Meeting

Ben Martin made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded.

Motion approved.