

National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association 2015 Annual Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Best Western Premier Boulder Falls, Lebanon, OR. on November 18, 2014 at 4 p.m.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

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

It was moved and seconded that the Southern California Sporting Spaniel Club, the Volunteer Club and the Iowa Sporting Spaniel Club be accepted as members.

Motion Approved

Acceptance of Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2014 meeting as published and distributed be approved.

Motion approved

Presidents Message

President Paul McGagh noted that this was the first National Open since the passing of Dan Langhans. The influence of Dan is felt by most here and will be a continuing influence on our sport.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's 2014 report as published and distributed be approved.

Motion approved

Election of Officers

Barb Boettcher gave the report of the nominating committee for Richie Whelan. The committee was primarily charged with selecting the person who would be the president in 2018 when the trial would be held in the Eastern Interclub. She stated that the slate reflected the choice of the trial being held in the Finger Lakes, NY region, which was the only proposal received during the search process.

Mike Wallace stated that he had an alternative proposal to hold the trial in the Cambridge, MD area which would allow for a later start date for the trial and that he would like that to be considered at this meeting.

Dean Reinke noted that just because the proposed slate of officers reflected the trial being held in New York the actual presentation for the 2018 trial would be made in 2017 at the delegates meeting and would not necessarily have to be the same proposal that was presented to the committee.

Barb then presented the slate recommended by the nominating committee:

President	Mark Gebert
First Vice President	Dean Koehler
Second Vice President	Gary Wilson
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 2016 National Open Championship

Paul McGagh announced that the judges for the 2016 National Open would be Randy Bartsch and Clay Earl.

Member Club Dues for 2016

Motion

It was moved and seconded that member club dues for 2016 be \$75.00 per club.

Motion unanimously approved

Presentation of Location for the 2016 National Open Championship

Brent Lemaster gave the presentation for the 2016 National Open to be held in the Lancaster, OH area which is approximately 30 miles from Columbus, OH. The dates

for the trial would be November 9 until conclusion and the entry fee would be \$260 per entry.

There was a great deal of discussion with respect to the starting date of the trial. Many delegates felt that this precluded many clubs from holding a fall trial that would qualify for entry. When asked why the trial was so early Brent said that it was a date negotiated with Don Bramwell (Amateur National) and Frank Wiseman (Canadian National). If they were to have the trial later the next available date would be December 6, 2016 which would be after deer season in that region. The delegates asked Brent to check and see if that date would be acceptable to the landowner.

Further discussion of the proposal was tabled until Brent was able to contact the landowner.

NOTE: Brent was not able to reach the landowner during the meeting. It was agreed that if the alternate start date of December 6 was acceptable to the landowner the delegates would be polled for approval. At the banquet check-in 36 delegates were polled and all were in favor of the December 6, 2016 start date. With the approval of the December 6, 2016 start date the two tier closing dates will be 18 days (November 18, 2016) and 11 days (November 25, 2016.) The entry fee will be the amount justified by the budget will be reviewed and modified to reflect the date and other changes.

Qualification for the 2016 National Open

It was stated that the current number of points for qualification is 2 points.

Jason Givens moved that the qualification for entry in 2016 be 5 points. Dean Reinke seconded that motion.

There was much discussion that this would decrease the size of the entry which would allow the trial to be completed in a shorter period of time and give more time to look at each dog entered.

Bill Boeckman noted that there have been National Champions that only had one or two points .

Dan Murray said you also needed to look at the varying sizes of trials. It was much more difficult to earn 5 points when the trials were 40 plus dogs in a stake as opposed to 20 dogs in a stake.

Jason stated that he personally thinks the Nationals would be better if the qualification were 5 points but that this meeting might not be the time to make that significant change.

The motion and the second were rescinded.

It was then moved and seconded that the qualification for entry in 2016 remain at 2 points.

There was a "paddle vote" called for. There was confusion with delegates changing their votes mid count so a recount was made. 18 in favor and 23 opposed. **Motion failed.**

It was then moved and seconded that the qualification for entry in 2016 be 3 points.

Again a paddle vote was called for. 26 in favor and 13 opposed. **Motion carried**

At that point Brent LeMaster pulled the proposal for the 2016 National in Lancaster, OH. He noted that the budget was based on a number of entries using a 2 point qualification and that the budget was no longer valid. Dean Reinke noted that the proposal could be reworked and delegates could approve this after the meeting with the approval of a majority of the delegates. (See NOTE above)

Time for Annual Meeting for 2016

The time and place of the annual meeting will be set with the reworked proposal but will most likely be at 4:00 p.m. on the day before the trial.

Other Business

1. Use of Electronic Voting for Election of National Judges

Mhari Peschel gave some background with respect to this proposal and referred the delegates to the proposal which had been distributed and posted on essft.com which described the process and timeline for implementing electronic voting. Mhari asked that this proposal be considered in two parts for purposes of approval- 1. Approval of the Process and 2. Approval of the changes to Bylaws necessary to implement this change.

It was moved and seconded that the proposal to utilize electronic voting for the election of National Open Championship judges be approved.

There was a question regarding the cost of the change which we believe will be cost neutral. There was also a question regarding the challenges which are primarily getting current email addresses for the eligible voters.

Motion Approved

It was moved and seconded that the Bylaws be amended in accordance with the changes set forth in the proposal to accommodate electronic voting for the election of the National Open Championship Judges.

Motion Approved

2. **NESSFTA to assume administration of the Hogan and Lorenz Trophies**
Mhari Peschel proposed, after discussion and approval by the Lorenz family, that the NESSFTA take over the production of the Hogan Awards. It was noted that there had not been keeper trophies for at least three years for the recipients. The proposal would require a reworking of the perpetual plaque to provide for additional name plates and that the perpetual plaque would then be kept at the Bird Dog Hall of Fame for display with the new recipients name engraved each year. The NESSFTA would be responsible for having the keeper trophies in the same style as those that were previously manufactured. The costs involved would be \$50 to create a new mold and \$110 for casting each medallion and \$20 for a wood base for the medallion. The cost at the foundry is the same irrespective of the number of medallions that are manufactured. There would be some cost involved with adding new name plates for engraving on the perpetual plaque but it is estimated to be less than \$100.

It was moved and seconded that the NESSFTA undertake the project of updating the perpetual trophy and having 20 keeper awards manufactured.

Motion Approved

3. **It was moved and seconded that Ray Cacchio replace Jeff Brooks as the NESSFTA representative to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

Motion Approved

4. Mhari Peschel gave a report of the Scholarship Committee for Pat Bramwell. One scholarship was awarded and one other award was pending proof of enrollment.

5. Interclub Rotation, Dates of Nationals

Skip Smith said that he was speaking for two of the proposals- the one submitted by Gary Wilson which had been posted on essft.com and the date limitation that was proposed by Steve Beyer. Skip noted that 2015 was a bit like the perfect storm in the trial world with both Nationals being before Thanksgiving and the Nationals being held on opposite coasts. This resulted in early closing dates and clubs either deciding not to have trials that wouldn't qualify or postpone the trials until after Thanksgiving. It also resulted in difficult travel for those that wanted to attend both Nationals. One way to avoid this difficulty would be to change the rotation of the clubs so that the Nationals would be closer to each other. The proposal would change the rotation by swapping the 2020 NAC to the RMIC and the 2021 NAC to the E. This rotation order would then become the standard rotation.

Dean Reinke asked about the other proposal. Jan Johnson spoke to the proposal submitted by Daryl Johnson which also proposed a different rotation schedule.

The effect would be similar. Jan stated that if this was approved there would be an implementation plan to accomplish the change.

Bob Beauchamp asked if this was also addressing the quality issue that had been referred to by Gary Wilson. Skip said that was a separate issue from the rotation change.

It was moved and seconded that the change in rotation outlined by Skip Smith in his discussion be approved.

Motion approved

Skip then brought up the issue of starting dates of the Nationals. He proposed that placements at trials scheduled on Week 44 of the AKC calendar would always be included in the qualification period for the National Championships and that no Championship trial could be held prior to November 15 of any year. The result of this would be that one National would be before Thanksgiving and one would be after.

Mike Wallace noted that we are upping the points and limiting the dates for trials. Is this supposed to be implemented immediately? The date limit is intended to take effect in 2017, however, if the 2016 NOC date is moved to December it will be in effect in 2016.

Dan Murray noted that this will preclude some areas from having Nationals. Shouldn't it be that the National is in the area with the best location and at the best time for that area?

Janet Christensen gave some history; the Nationals used to be held after Thanksgiving in Illinois because it was too cold to have them anywhere else. When the Nationals were split there was supposed to be a certain amount of time between the championships to avoid the travel issues.

Mark Gambardella stated that places like Minnesota might not be able to get grounds after that date and noted that Don Bramwell had said the National Amateur couldn't be later due to travel issues.

It was moved and seconded that the proposal outlined by Skip be approved.

A paddle vote was taken 33 in favor and 7 against Motion approved.

Field Trial Chairman's Presentation

Paul McGagh gave the presentation for Don Mock. The first course is approximately 71 flags long and there will be a caravan leaving the hotel at 6:45 a.m., for the property in

the Harrisburg area. Jerry Light will be charge of parking and please follow his instructions.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion unanimously approved.