

## **National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association 2017 Annual Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Austin and Conference Center in Austin, MN on November 14, 2017 at 4 p.m.

### ***Roll Call and Determination of Quorum***

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

### ***Acceptance of Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting***

#### **Motion**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2016 meeting as published and distributed be approved.**

**Motion approved**

### ***Presidents Message***

Dean Koehler welcomed the delegates to Austin and said that more information about the field trial would be given at the end of the meeting.

### ***Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report***

#### **Motion**

**It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's 2016 report as published and distributed be approved.**

**Motion approved**

### ***Election of Officers***

Jeff Brooks gave the report for the nominating committee. The Western Interclub will be hosting the 2020 National Open and the committee requested proposals. The proposal that was selected was made by Gary Riddle for a trial to be held in the Logan/Newton Utah area using the same grounds that would be used for the upcoming National Amateur.

**Jeff made a motion to elect the remaining slate by acclamation:**

President	Mike Wallace
First Vice President	Don Bramwell
Second Vice President	Gary Riddle
Secretary/Treasurer	Mhari Peschel

It was seconded . **Motion approved.**

### ***Announcement of Judges for the 2018 National Open Championship***

Mhari Peschel announced that the judges for the 2018 National Open would be Casey Butz and Mark Haglin..

### ***Member Club Dues for 2018***

#### **Motion**

**It was moved and seconded that member club dues for 2018 be \$75.00 per club.**

**Motion unanimously approved**

### ***Presentation of Location for the 2018 National Open Championship***

Mike Wallace proposed that the 2018 National Open Championship would be held in the Cambridge, MD area starting December 10, 2018. The birds would be provided by Blue Ribbon Game Farm, Gun Co-Captains would be Johnny Castellani and John Meyer and head marshal would be Debbie Olszewski. The headquarters would be the Holiday Inn Express. The best airport access would be Baltimore.

**It was moved and seconded to accept the proposal made by Mike Wallace with the start date for the trial being December 10, 2018 in the Cambridge Maryland area. Motion Approved.**

### ***Qualification for the 2018 National Open***

It was stated that the current number of points for qualification is 3 points.

**Jim Keller moved that the qualification for 2018 be 5 points. Motion was seconded.**

Paul McGagh asked why we shouldn't try the 3 point qualification for a few more years. It was asked how the 3 point qualification had affected entries. Mhari Peschel said that the 2015 National had just under 100 starters, the 2016 National had close to 130 entries

and 2017 National had 114 entries. Gary Wilson noted that the location of the trial plays a big part in the number of entries

Jim Keller asked if it was still true that the increase in trial entries according to the AKC records was still mostly due to increased participation in trials to earn the additional qualifying points. We didn't have any data to respond to that question.

Jason Givens commented that maybe we should try the 3 points for a bit more time before making another change.

**Jim Keller amended his motion to have a 3 point qualification. It was seconded.**

Gary Wilson asked why the Amateur went to 1 point. Mhari Peschel said it was because the last National Amateur held in Utah was very small and they wanted to reduce the requirement to one point to increase participation.

**The motion was approved 25 in favor 20 against.**

**Mike Wallace proposed that the entry fee be \$235.00 It was moved and seconded and approved.**

There was discussion about keeping the closing schedule of 18 days and 11 days. It was asked what day of the week the trial would start. December 10, 2018 is a Monday. That would make the 18/11 closing dates November 22, 2018 and Thursday November 30, 2018.

John Hall brought up the issue of alternating stakes trials that start on the last qualifying date but end after the qualifying date. After much discussion it was recognized that clubs need to be aware of the closing dates and if possible they can run their trial as one stake on Saturday and one stake on Sunday. The trial in question would normally have run both thirds on Sunday but because of a small entry they completed the open third on Saturday.

This is an issue that should be considered in setting the date of the National Open trial

### ***Time for Annual Meeting for 2018***

The time and place of the annual meeting will be 4:00 p.m. on December 9, 2018 at the Holiday Inn (trial headquarters).

### ***Other Business***

#### **Change in Qualifications to be included on the National Judges Ballot**

This item was put on the agenda at the request of the ESSFTA. The Board of Governors had discussions about whether the six trial ( twelve stake) requirement was really enough

to prepare a potential judge for a national judging assignment. They asked that the delegates consider this issue.

**John Meyer moved that the requirement to be included on the National Open Judges Ballot be twelve trials ( twenty- four all age stakes) in Springer Spaniel trials in AKC approved stakes.**

**Steve Beyer seconded the motion.**

The question was raised of how many judges that have put themselves on the list would be excluded if this new requirement were in place. David Sanford noted that the research done by the Parent Club indicated that approximately six out of thirty judges would have been excluded.

It was also asked how many potential judges usually ask to be included on the list. It has generally been between 20 and 40 and the variance is often due to the location of the potential national judging assignment.

**The motion was approved**

### **National Championship Dates**

Steve Beyer presented the results of a survey that was taken as a result of a request made by the National Amateur with respect to starting dates for National Championship trials.

Steve gave some of the parameters of the survey responses which included email addresses for dog owners. He noted that this sometimes was a problem in that you could have multiple owners at one email address and that multiple responses could not necessarily be determined to be coming from individual owners.

That being said there were 60.60% of the respondents said there should be a limiting date for the start of a national championship. Of those that felt there should be a limiting date 23.9% felt Nov 1-7 should be the earliest starting date, 76.1% felt it should be November 15 or later. Of that 76.1% there were 33.3% felt it should actually be December 1 or later.

The question of whether the National Open dates should have precedent in choosing the date the results were split approximately 50-50

The question of whether the rotation should continue including all five interclubs or should the Nationals be held in the central U.S. every year. The responses were 55.4% to keep the rotation among the five interclubs.

Gary Wilson commented that the person in the area hosting the trial really knows the best time to have it and why shouldn't they have that option.

It was noted that when the date is early you have clubs that can't hold a feasible trial due to the limited entries. There are so many clubs right now that clubs are struggling get a date and many clubs are having mid week or double dated trials which in many cases is also limiting entries.

Steve Beyer noted that at one time there was a proposal to have the qualifying dates be from July 1 to July 1 and the starting date of the National would then not impact the entries at club trials to nearly the same extent.

Gary Wilson felt that if an area needs to have the National at a certain time to take advantage of the best conditions then the other clubs should be flexible in accommodating that.

John Hall noted that since the National Open will be held in December in 2018 we should see how that affects the entries in the later trials to see if it has an effect.

Peter Renwick then asked if we could move on to the next item on the agenda –  
**Warm Weather Trials**

He noted that many of the trials in the Eastern Interclub were held in 80-90 degree weather. He noted that the trial chairs did a good job of prepping entrant to be aware of the conditions and to watch their dogs for the heat effects. He noted that there is no right answer but wondered why we can't agree to have the National later to allow clubs to hold their trials in better conditions.

### **Change in the interclub rotation for Nationals**

Mhari Peschel noted that in 2015 the delegates to the National Open approved a concept that would have the RMIC and the Eastern Interclubs switch their years for holding the National Amateur. This would have alleviated the problem of the Nationals being on opposite coasts which often results in small entries for both trials. While this concept would help it was not approved by the National Amateur which would have been required to make the change. In an effort to help alleviate this issue without an IC being required to hold two nationals in a row an alternate rotation was proposed which would begin in 2020. A summary of this rotation is attached.

Russ Smith commented that he liked it when both Nationals were held consecutively in the same location. It was noted that the reason this changed was due to the burden it put on an Interclub in providing all of the support workers for both trials.

**Gary Riddle moved and Mike Wallace seconded that this new rotation be approved subject to the approval of the National Amateur. The motion passed 29 in favor and 16 against.**

### **Field Trial Chairman's Presentation**

Bill Boeckman stated that there are between 25 and 30 flags on each course. Four wheelers need to be courteous and other than one vehicle which will be used to carry dead birds all vehicles should stay well back of the gallery and should be used to ferry dogs. There will be maps at the front desk but it seemed that most people had already been out to the trial location.

Mhari Peschel noted that the running order had been set up to run odds and evens. If there would no objections that is what would be done. No objections.

Mhari Peschel also asked all trailers to please encourage the trial secretaries to get complete information to Jan and for the high point and award data including starters.

**It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**