

BRITISH PIGEON FANCIERS MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST (BPFMRT)
TRUSTEES REPORT OF AGM HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2015.

Trustees present - Dr PP Lynch, George Pollock, Bill Frame, Ian Noble, Sam MacFadzen , Dr Gavin Boyd. Apol. Mary Pryde
Others present – Dr Charles McSharry Research Director of the Trust.

Hosting Facilities - The Trustees thank the SHU and secretary Linda Brooks and staff for the usual excellent free hosting facilities provided at the AGM of the Trust in the SHU offices Wishaw, Lanarkshire.

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted by the Trustees and the Press Report on the RPRA BHW Show of the Year at Blackpool was approved for publication on the Website and the pigeon Press The Show was as usual a very successful and busy research exercise. The Trustees were grateful to receive a cheque for £15,000 from the RPRA BHW Show Committee. We are grateful to the RPRA General Manager Stewart Wardrop and his efficient staff who together with the BHW Show Committee and staff ensured that the excellent Show location and the Research Stand's needs were freely provided.

Accounts ended 30th November 2014

The balance sheet was approved by the Trustees. It was as usual expertly presented by George Pollock hon. Treasurer who drew attention to the good news that the Trust had overcome deficits of £ 7.6K last year and £ 7.8k the previous year and had a surplus of £ 7.4k this year thus underlining the fact that financially we continue to live from year to year only The RPRA BHW Show donation continues to be our major financial lifeline, without it we could not exist. We are also grateful for the regular and continued financial support from the SHU, SNFC and the NEHU and all individual fanciers and organisations who contribute from time to time, the most recent being the guarantee of £1.2k from Planet Bros from the auction of 6 quality pigeons at Blackpool specifically for the Research on behalf of The John Squib Memorial Fund charity for pigeon related needy causes in memory of their father.

We are grateful to I.A. Stewart & Company, Chartered Accountants, New Lanark for their continued free services and Independent Examiners Report which continues to be a mandatory regulation by the Scottish Charity Regulator - Ref SCO13181 The free donation of their time, enthusiasm and expertise by the senior members of the Research Team and the Trustees continues at no cost. On behalf of the Fancy the Trustees wish to thank the Team for their continued voluntary efforts on our behalf. The voluntary partnership of British pigeon fanciers and their research team in the research of pigeon lung and the service they provide to fanciers on the funds available, continues to be a credit and testimony to the goodwill and charitable aims of British pigeon fanciers and their research team.

Research Lab Activities

The Research team attended the new SHU Show at Lanark, and the RPRA BHW Show of the Year at Blackpool. Regretfully a clash of dates and delays in the return travel from a symposium abroad prevented us from attending the NEHU SHOW. As

a result of the deficits in the past 2 years the research scientist's salary contribution had to be reduced by the Trustees. Glasgow University pays the remainder. All the Show results should be out by now, if there are any queries our research laboratory scientist Lisa Jolly can be contacted at Tel.0141 330 1878 e-mail lisa.jolly@glasgow.ac.uk (e-mail contact is by far the best method).

Summary of Activities during 2014 and thoughts for the future
Dr Charles McSharry
Research Director BPFMRTrust and Senior Research Scientist.
Biomedical Research Centre Glasgow University.

Our basic aims and purpose are unchanged namely provision of a service to fanciers and the Fancy and in the process research of Pigeon Fanciers Lung (Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis).

SERVICE TO FANCIERS AND FANCY

Dependent as ever on continuing funding and support from the fancy. The Screening blood test provides data regarding individual pigeon fanciers reaction to pigeon protein (pigeon dust)
This is geared to continuing education and advice regarding protection and prevention also the maintenance of website and data base.

RESEARCH

Continuing interest by scientists and fanciers in UK and worldwide
We have solid immunological data gathered over the years of research that needs further exploration.
There are new types of dust/mists in industry that cause occupational lung conditions similar to pigeon lung and scientists world wide are interested and aware of our data bases and experience of the condition.(Dr McSharry has been asked to write a chapter in the renowned Parkes Occupational Lung Disorders PPL)

PIGEON FANCIERS EXTRINSIC ALLERGIC ALVEOLITIS

Current resources: The fanciers have provided e mail addresses that would allow the opportunity for collecting research questions on general and respiratory quality of life using online questionnaires similar to those used in asthma. This would help us to identify the long term health benefits of being in the fancy, if there is any impact of allergy to pigeons and if wearing masks can improve that. We would like to be able to identify any local fanciers in Scotland who might be able to donate blood for some tests that require very fresh samples.

We have already collected information on blood levels of vitamin D and this seems important for lung health. We have additional information on other blood tests that will expand this knowledge.

One of the difficulties of studying pigeon lung (allergic alveolitis) is that it is not one simple disease process, for example most people get no symptoms at all and a few do get symptoms which can be very troublesome for some. These are the people we want to help. This tells us that people can react very differently to dusts. We are trying to find out what happens in those fanciers who don't get symptoms so that we can find

out how to” switch” off this process in those who do get symptoms of pigeon lung. This knowledge will have a major impact on the treatment of pigeon lung and other lung diseases.

To follow this up, as the new Director of Research I have planned a follow up meeting after Easter with other researchers in the UK to review our information and to prioritise our next activities.

Therapeutic Phase of The Research

At the moment , and as we have long advocated, the best method of combating pigeon lung is still prevention of pigeon dust entering the lungs by the use of an appropriate mask, cap and coat whenever with the pigeons especially when cleaning out. The therapeutic phase of the research is however providing much hope for the future The use of Statins (blood fat lowering medicaments) appears to have a beneficial effect in pigeon lung and the relevance of vitamin D levels is still unfolding. .

Service to the Fancy throughout the year

The research team continue to be available to the Fancy throughout the year as a free service for advice and support - by telephone, by e -mail and by further communications via our website The trustees approved the token payment of £2,000 to the research coordinators Ken and Jane Boyd for the administration and coordination of the data bases relating to the Show blood results also the activities throughout the year including managing the website www.pigeon-lung.co.uk and coordinating the responses of the team members to the frequent questions asked by fanciers and non fanciers on our website in the role as webmaster.

The shatter proof blood packs resourced and purchased from Royal Mail have continued to be a great success. They fulfill Health and Safety regulations both at home and abroad. We continue to provide the service of a free blood check for pigeon reaction in British fanciers and their families if there is a worry about health. The pack and blood test is free to all fanciers in the British Isles including Southern Ireland.

Thanks to all our supporters

The Trustees and Research Team are greatly encouraged and thankful for the support of British fanciers and their organisations especially the RPRA through their BHW Show of The Year, the SHU the SNFC and the NEHU for their regular annual donations and all the other pigeon fanciers and pigeon organisations who support us whenever they can. In truth this voluntary and charitable research activity by British pigeon fanciers and their research team continues to be unique in the international pigeon world and much envied in the scientific one. Our joint efforts on a limited and reduced budget enables us to continue to search for a cure for pigeon lung and in the same process strive to provide a service in support of the good health of all pigeon fanciers and their families. We thank you all once again for your vital support and wish all pigeon fanciers and their families good health and every success in the forthcoming racing season.

Yours sincerely, Dr PP Lynch chair BPFMRT