

REPORT on AGM of BRITISH PIGEON FANCIERS MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST (BPFMRT) 17/2/2010

Trustees present - Dr PP Lynch, George Pollock, Bill Frame, Ian Noble, Sam McFadzen, John Housten. Apol. A Garven.

Team - Dr Gavin Boyd, Dr Ken Anderson, Dr Charles McSharry, Dr Katrina Weir. Apol. Dr Stephen Bourke, Ken Boyd

The Press Report on RPR BHW Show of the Year at Blackpool was approved for publication on the Website. The Show was as usual a very successful and busy research exercise and the Trustees were grateful to receive a cheque for £15,000 from the RPR BHW Show Committee. We are also indebted to Brian Mead the Show committee and the RPR General Manager David Bills and staff who ensured that the excellent Show location and the Research Stand's needs were freely provided.

Accounts 2009

The balance sheet (copy enclosed) was approved by the Trustees. It was expertly presented by George Pollock hon. Treasurer who highlighted the fact that financially we continue to live from year to year. The RPR 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 and the NEHU and all individual fanciers and organisations who contribute from time to time. We are grateful to I.A. Stewart & Company, Chartered Accountants, New Lanark for their free services and Independent Examiners Report which is 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 at no cost is immeasurable and hence does not appear on this or any other balance sheet. The support of the Trustees is also in the same category and on behalf of the Fancy we wish to thank the Team for their continued and tenacious 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, is to our knowledge unequalled any where in the scientific or pigeon world and is a credit and testimony to the goodwill and charitable aims of British fanciers and their research team

Pigeon Lung Clinic

The Pigeon Lung clinic at Crosshouse Hospital Kilmarnock KA2 OBE continues weekly, albeit on a reduced budget under Dr Ken Anderson with consultations and queries from fanciers and their doctors throughout the UK.. In most UK NHS hospitals the investigation results and even x-rays can now be transmitted electronically between specialists and consultants for review and second opinions. Dr Ken Anderson as one of our senior clinical consultants, continues to provide this facility gratis for fanciers and colleagues with queries on pigeon lung - Tel.01563 827903

Research Lab Activities

The Blackpool Show blood test results have been sent out. The Trustees approved the

figure of £4,500 for consumables used in the lab process. The Trust continues to pay half the salary of the research scientist, Glasgow University pays the other half. Our research scientist Iona Donnelly is at the moment on maternity leave and her place has been taken by scientist Lisa Jolly till Iona's return. Tel.0141 330 1878 e-mail icf3h@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

Therapeutic Phase of The Research

. At the moment , and as we have long advocated, the best method of combating pigeon lung still is 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 be beneficial in pigeon lung and a research paper on this is about to be submitted by the team for publication and international scrutiny We have shown in the past that pigeon lung is extremely rare in smokers, this is because smoking suppresses the immune system, the body's defence mechanisms and hence the ability to produce a protective reaction (including pigeon allergy reaction) is suppressed. In smoking related responses, natural flavinoids appear to have the same effect without the hazards of smoking We have embarked on a laboratory tissue research study this year to see if a natural flavinoid has the same blocking effect on pigeon lung without the risks of smoking. We have recently unearthed and confirmed a surprising and remediable deficiency in the bloods of the pigeon fanciers involved in our research and are investigating the significance and relevance of this. The therapeutic phase of the research is already proving to be an exciting and promising milestone in the search for a cure for pigeon lung. At our research session at the NEHU Show we were pleased to meet and cooperate with Stephen Todryk the new senior immunologist at Newcastle University. We provided 45 fresh blood samples taken from fanciers on the day to initiate a basis for collaboration with Stephen in his scientific work at Newcastle.

Service to the Fancy throughout the year

As well as the weekly pigeon lung clinic the research team are 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 coordinator Ken Boyd for his administration and coordination of the data bases relating to the Show blood results also his 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 on our website in his role as webmaster. We have again this year as before provided support and testimony in the defence of a responsible British fancier whose neighbour wrongly claims his racing pigeons are a health hazard The new shatter proof blood packs resourced and purchased from Royal Mail have proved to be a great success. They fulfil 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 however some fanciers from further abroad now have to pay for the basic total cost of the blood pack and the blood test - approx. 50 dollars per test.. As the Trust is a non profit making registered charity this world wide service continues to be provided to our fellow pigeon fanciers abroad at basic cost only.

Hosting Facilities

The Trustees thank the SHU and secretary Linda Brooks and staff for the excellent free hosting facilities provided at the AGM of the Trust in the new SHU offices.

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 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 is unique in the international pigeon world and much envied in the scientific one. Our joint efforts on a limited 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 once again for your vital support and wish all pigeon fanciers good health and every success in the forthcoming racing season.

Yours faithfully
Dr PP Lynch chair BPFMRT