

REPORT ON THE BRITISH PIGEON FANCIERS MEDICAL RESEARCH TEAM AT THE BHW SHOW OF THE YEAR BLACKPOOL 18th/19th JANUARY 2014

The weather at Blackpool fortunately was much milder than last year with the usual fresh and bracing wind at the sea front. The team members arrived at various times throughout the day up until midnight on the Friday. This is due to the fact that the research team doctors are NHS doctors and have to finish their on duty commitments before travelling to the Show.

THE TEAM

Dr Gavin Boyd, Medical director of the Trust Glasgow, Dr Stephen Bourke consultant respiratory physician Newcastle Victoria Infirmary, Dr PP Lynch Larbert chairperson of the Trust, Dr Gordon Burns, Dr Katie Roome Lanarkshire. The research was administrated by Ken and Jane Boyd research coordinators assisted by Mrs Mary Boyd.

We are indebted to Dave Trippet and the BHW Show Committee also Stewart Wardrop general manager of the RPRA and staff for their professionalism and support which ensured all our needs were in place – as usual - for our research and service activities for fanciers

Over 200 fanciers and family members attended the research stand over the weekend and went through the process of questionnaire, blood tests etc. To maintain the highest ethical standards in the research we provide, there was additional new information paperwork for fanciers to read. This caused some delay at the onset but was quickly understood by the fanciers and the brisk turnover of fanciers flowed smoothly again. Advice was given on preventative measures eg. – the use of a cap mask and coat when cleaning out and especially when with the birds if there is any significant degree of reaction to the pigeons. The hazards of the annual clean out of deep litter systems and the return to the birds after a holiday were highlighted. We remind the fanciers to check our website www.pigeon-lung.co.uk for further information. The average fancier's sons, daughters and grandchildren are usually the experts in computer skills and can do this for them. We continue to endorse the BHW Puramask which is

subsidized, efficient, cheap and disposable. The blood results are about to be sent out in the next few days

We were pleased to see Alec Lothian former Trustee is still making progress after his stroke and still racing his pigeons with the help of Sam McFadzen present Trustee and others. There were several other Trustees present at the Show. It was pleasing to meet up again with Gary and John Squib of Planet Bros and thank them for their recent donation of £1000 from The John Squib Memorial Fund - for pigeon related causes, in memory of their father.

DONATIONS

The Research Team were delighted and honoured to receive a cheque for £15,000 from the Show of the Year Committee for the research of pigeon lung and the provision of the screening test for pigeon reaction in British pigeon fanciers and their families if there is any worries about their health relating to pigeons. This donation continues to be our financial lifeline for which we are extremely grateful. The donation box at the Stand raised the sum of 140 pounds.

The team were pleased to witness the wonderful financial support the Show Committee give to pigeon and non pigeon charities and worthy causes. It really is a credit to the Fancy in the UK that the RPRA BHW Show of the Year continues to annually encourage and support these needy charities in the way they do, especially in the current economic situation.

On behalf of the Trustees and members of the BPFMRT team I thank the UK pigeon fanciers in general and the RPRA BHW Show of The Year Committee in particular for their continued cooperation and financial support without which we could not exist.

We wish all British fanciers and their families good health and every success in the 2014 racing season

Yours sincerely,

Dr PP Lynch Chairperson BPFMRT