TINDELL, GRANT & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants

Directors:
Karen Szotek BSc FCCA
Joanna Grant BSc FCA

Registered at the Office of the
Scottish Charity Regulator
Ref: SCO13181

British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research
Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name
British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research

Charity Number
SC013181

Current Trustees:-

Dr Mark Spears	Chairperson
Mr Lee Jamieson	Secretary/Treasurer
Dr Matthew Embley	
Dr Richard Allen	
Mr Andrew Kyle	
Donna Thompson	

Contact Address:-
Dr Mark Spears, 5 Royal Gardens, Stirling, FK8 2RJ

Structure Governance & Management
Constitution
We are a Charitable Unincorporated Trust and the purposes and administration arrangements are set our in our Constitution adopted on 18 October 1978. A copy of the Constitution is held by the office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The Trust has been a registered charity 21 February 1979.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees
•All the Trustees are appointed or reappointed at the Annual General Meeting.
•Meetings are held in person at the SHU offices, Wishaw or online (reflecting requirements of current Trustees).
•The constitution of the Trust states that serving trustees may co-op new trustees so that there are a reasonable number of trustees to ensure the continuing management of the fund. The Trustees consider that three trustees is an adequate number for this purpose.
•The activities of the Trust are highly specialised and hence some are carried out by qualified doctors and medical research staff.
•Reflecting the nature of the conducted research Trustees can come from different backgrounds and we encourage representation by the Fancier community amongst the Trustees to ensure our work reflects the need of the community.
•The Trustees are particularly aware of their responsibilities for Health and Safety and all activities are carried out by qualified persons.

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Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To promote an encourage general research into Allergic Lung Diseases with particular reference to the condition known as Pigeon Fancier's Lung.
To raise funds for the purposes described above.

Activities and Achievements

Interest in allergic lung diseased within the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Glasgow Royal Infirmary began in 1967. At that time, the first major research project into pigeon lung was carried out with the co-operation of Beith Homing Society in Ayrshire, following the diagnosis of pigeon breeders disease in the UK. This gave birth to the concept of a "Research Team". Individual fanciers readily raised funds to help finance the research and they were soon joined by pigeon organisations eager to assist the medical research team, who quickly developed an approach towards treating the condition.

Such was the interest generated that the Scottish National Flying Club Medical Research Fund was established on 2 May 1976.

In the early days, a mobile laboratory and medical team attended clubhouses and shows in Scotland. However, such was the demand that with interest and support being shown from throughout the UK, Doctors and support staff operated stands at major British shows and all on a voluntary basis. Consequently, the name was changed to British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research Trust.

The Research has gone from strength to strength under the adoptive wing of the RPRA British Homing World Show of the Year. The Blackpool Show Committee has given us regular annual donations, which in reality is our financial lifeline. Details of other valued donations including the yearly SHU sum comprised of 50p from each SHU member appears on page 8.

The medical personnel and senior research staff receive no payment.

Over the years, many medical research reports have been published in Scientific Journals worldwide and presented at Scientific meetings and Symposia.

We previously contributed financial support to the work of Dr Charles McSharry, Senior Biomedical Scientist, NHS GGC, who conducted his research in the Biomedical Research Centre at Glasgow University. After adoption of this early work by a commercial company a blood test is now available to the NHS (and worldwide). This enables respiratory doctors and GPs to test for the immune response to Pigeons and other birds when considering the cause of their patent's symptoms.

More recently the Research Team embarked on ambitious research exploring the genetic underpinnings of why lungs become inflamed after inhaling pigeon dust. This project, British Pigeon Fanciers Genetics of Interstitial Lung Disease (BPF GILD), led by Dr Mark Spears and developed in collaboration with Professor Louise Wain, University of Leicester, commenced in 2019. This project was initially sponsored by NHS Forth Valley, and subsequently NHS Tayside.

Activities and Achievements (cont'd)

Despite the impact of the COVID pandemic on the RPRA Show of the Year, recruitment completed in January 2025. The 500+ samples were processed at Professor Colin Palmer's, Genetic Laboratory at the University of Dundee and analysis has been completed by Dr Richard Allen, a colleague of Professor Wain at the University of Leicester, and recently adopted Trustee. We anticipate publication of the preliminary results in 2026.

Further research linked to the BPF GILD project is also coming to maturation. One project, again in collaboration with the University of Leicester, has examined blood protein levels with reference to the development of acute symptoms and likely Pigeon Lung with several interesting and novel findings produced. This work was briefly presented at the European Respiratory Meeting, Barcelona, 2026. In addition our work exploring a novel breathing test, called Forced Oscillometry, is currently being analysed in detail. Again presentation of some of our findings took place at the European Respiratory Meeting this year.

Reflecting the time limited nature of ethics approvals, a further project, termed 'Better Tests' has been developed by Dr Spears and collaborators, to allow ongoing research in the area of Pigeon Lung with a focus on improving diagnostic accuracy and hence care provided to Pigeon Fanciers who present to their doctor/s with chest complaints. This project will compare the findings in Fanciers with patients with established interstitial lung diseases, and hence improve engagement with the broader Respiratory Scientific Community. Ethical approval for this project commenced November 2025.

Financial Review

The financial results of the Research are set out in the following pages.

Our main source of funding is an annual donation from the British Homing World Annual Show. A donation of £2,000 was presented to us on 17th January 2025 at the British Homing World Annual Show. Details of other donations (cash donations received by the Research Team) are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The Trustees are confident that funds on hand plus other assured donations will be sufficient to allow us to continue providing research costs over the next financial year. A full list is given on page 7, note 4 to the financial statements.

Reserves Policy

A surplus of £945.35 is shown for the year which increases our cash balance to £15,206.12. It is our practice to hold the bulk of these funds in an interest-bearing savings account - transferring funds to the current account as and when required. It is our policy to hold sufficient reserves to ensure financial security of the Trust for at least twelve months of future costs.

Plans for Future Periods

The trustees will continue to allow the medical research to continue for the foreseeable future.

Update on the BPFMRT - 2025/2026

The available trustees met on Microsoft Teams on the evening of the 16th September. The meeting as chaired by Dr Mark Spears, and was attended by Mr Lee Jamieson (Secretary/Treasurer) and Drs Embley and Allen.

Dr Spears formally welcomed Mr Jamieson and Drs Embley and Allen to the Charity and thanked them for their offering to take on the role of Trustees (and Secretary/Treasurer in the case of Mr Jamieson).

There has been good progress in the BPF GILD project with laboratory work almost complete. A peer review will follow the initiall results with full publication expected sometime in 2026. Initial findings will be available at the next annual conference.

Dr Spears informed those in attendance that the SHU had been approached regarding this meeting taking place but no member of the SHU was made available for the meeting. The charity anticipates the SHU will be able to provide an attendee for future meetings, reflecting their long standing association with the charity.

Those attending reviewed the accounts and accepted them on behalf of the charity board.

The forthcoming results from the BPF GILD Project were discussed, with Dr Allen updating those present on the current research plan for the genetic results.

Possible research recruitment events were discussed, with an update on the annual SHU show awaited, along with the Show of the Year invite expected. Dr Spears also made the team aware of the possibility of attendance at the North of England Homing Union meeting in November, following his being contacted directly by a Fancier from this group.

The group also considered the need to replace aging equipment utilised by the team for recruitment events. One key piece of equipment considered was the spirometers purchased for the charity, with their becoming unreliable due to their being 'laptop driven'. Agreement was reached that these should be considered for replacement, dependent on impact on available funds. Dr Spears and Mr Jamieson agreed to discuss this in more detail and to update the trustees on possible options before purchases made.

Finally, the group reflected on the current charity income being sufficient to allow attendance at Pigeon Fancier shows but with risk of depletion of funds if not managed well. Dr Spears will continue to raise awareness within the Fancier community on this aspect when invited to attend shows.

Trustees Remuneration Expenses

The trustees did not receive any remuneration during the year.

Trustees report approved by the board on 16th September 2026

Signed:

Dr Mark Spears - Chairperson

British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research
Independent Examiner's Report
to the members of British Pigeon Fanicers Medical Research

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of the executive committee and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulations 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Joanna Grant ACA.....

Tindell, Grant & Co Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
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Springkerse
Stirling
FK7 7UU

British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Receipts			
Donations			
Private		1,430.00	1,588.54
Organisations	4	2,000.00	2,000.00
Bank Interest		95.35	126.87
Charges Refunded		-	-
Total Receipts		3,525.35	3,715.41
Payments			
Allergic Lung Diseases:			
Administration Research	5	-	-
Show Accommodation		1,480.00	1,380.00
Show Expenses		800.00	1,600.00
Incidentals	6	300.00	869.45
Total Payments for Charitable Activities		2,580.00	3,849.45
(Deficit)/Surplus for Year		945.35	(134.04)

All funds are unrestricted.

British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research
Statement of Balances
Year ended 31 December 2025

Funds Reconciliation	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Bank and Cash in Hand		
As at 31 December 2024		
Current Account	10,314.09	10,456.67
Deposit Account	3,946.66	3,938.12
	14,260.75	14,394.79
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	945.35	(134.04)
Cash at Bank and in Hand at 31 December 2025	15,206.10	14,260.75
Bank and Cash Balances		
Business Account	12,059.46	10,314.09
Treasurers Account	3,146.66	3,946.66
	15,206.12	14,260.75
Other Assets		
Equipment at Purchase Price	6,695.39	6,695.39

All funds are unrestricted.

Approved by the Trustees on 16 September 2026

Signed:

Dr Mark Spears - Chairperson

British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research
Notes to Financial Statements
Year ended 31 December 2025

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 an the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The total income of the fund since its inception, now amounts to £777,979.48 and total expenditure met therefrom £762,773.38 leaving a balance of £15,206.10 as at 31 December 2025, as per the foregoing account.

The fund commenced 2 May 1976.

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day to day running of the Trust.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes.

There were no restricted funds received during the year.

3. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties.

4. Donations from Organisations

	2025	2024
Blackpool Show	2,000.00	2,000.00
Scottish Homing Union	1,305.00	837.00
	3,305.00	2,837.00

5. Allergic Lung Diseases Payments

	2025	2024
University of Glasgow	-	-
	-	-

6. Governance Costs

	2025	2024
Incidentals - postage & accountancy	300.00	869.45

7. Equipment Owned

	2025	2024
Two stethoscopes for use at Blackpool	489.11	489.11
Freezer for storing blood samples	3,485.20	3,485.20
Two heavy duty banners for BPFMR stands at shows	305.58	305.58
Two Vitalographs Alpha (UK)	2,415.50	2,415.50
	6,695.39	6,695.39