

British Dragonfly Society

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2008



British Dragonfly Society

Registered Charity No 800196

Charity's principal address

23 Bowker Way, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1PY

Trustees and Committee Members as at 31 March 2008

Trustee	Position
Dr P J Mill	Chairman & Journal Editor
Dr D Gennard	Vice-Chairman
Mr H G Curry	Hon. Secretary
Mr A G T Carter	Hon. Treasurer
Dr P Taylor	Convenor of Dragonfly Conservation Group
Dr L Ward	
Mr N Armour-Chelu	
Mr S Brooks	
Mr S Warrilow	

Appointment of Trustees

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the four ordinary members shall each be elected for a period of four years. The Secretary, Treasurer, and the Convenor of the Dragonfly Conservation group shall be appointed by the Trustees for a period of four years and are then *ex-officio* members of the Board. The four ordinary members shall retire in rotation and are not immediately eligible for re-election.

Bankers

The Bankers of the Trust are Lloyds TSB.

Cover photos

Front: Male Black Darter, *Sympetrum danae*, seen at Thursley Common in Surrey © Henry Curry

Back: Common Darter, *Sympetrum striolatum*, posing on the new BDS baseball cap © Dave Smallshire

Chairman's Introduction

The British Dragonfly Society (BDS) made substantial progress during the time covered by this report and has moved forward plans that will both enable the Society to reach a wider audience and increase its ability to promote dragonfly conservation. During this year there have been two staff changes, but both have brought the BDS new expertise.

Caroline Daguét, our second Conservation Officer, emigrated to Canada in early May and was replaced by Katharine Parkes, who joined us from the World Land Trust. Our Key Sites Project Officer, Graham French, left in September for a permanent post with the NBN Trust, but has continued to work closely with the BDS from the opposite side of the data process. Stephen Prentice was employed as Dragonflies in Focus (DiF) Project Officer in September 2007 to continue and extend the data handling role of the BDS started by Graham French.

We have now secured funding for both our Conservation Officer and our Dragonflies in Focus Officer until 2010, but we continue to seek further funding to make these posts permanent if possible. We are grateful to Natural England, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Zeiss, for their continuing support of our officers.

One of the main outcomes of the DiF project will be a new national atlas scheduled for publication in 2013. First planning steps towards this atlas were made at a Dragonfly Recording Network (DRN) meeting in April 2007 when initial ideas for renewed field data collection were discussed and it was decided that data collection should be concentrated from 2008-2012. Only by knowing where our dragonfly species are can we act to protect them. Up-to-date information about species abundance, species diversity, range changes and key breeding sites will enable the BDS to provide conservation and management advice from a sound foundation.

A full revision of the Odonata Red Data List was completed by the Dragonfly Conservation Group of the BDS for expected publication by JNCC during mid-2007. This project highlighted gaps in the DRN dataset that we now plan to fill during the course of the DiF project. Unfortunately, publication of the Red Data List has been delayed until 2008 by JNCC. However, an earlier article about the list did appear in the *Journal of the British Dragonfly Society* summarising its key points.

The BDS continues to attend various wildlife, countryside and other public events around the country. Katharine Parkes and Stephen Prentice frequently represent the BDS at these events, but BDS Trustees and other volunteers often attend those in their local area. During 2007 the BDS once again had a stand at the three-day British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water, as well as at more regional events such as Wild about Norfolk, Thames Festival in London and the Dragonfly Day at the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth in Wales. These events, and numerous others like them, allow the BDS to give advice to the general public, raise awareness about dragonfly conservation, and renew contact with our BDS membership.

Dragonfly recording can now be taken to the next level following publication by the BDS of a new guide to larvae and exuviae. This first volume covers dragonflies whilst the companion volume planned for 2009 will cover the more difficult damselflies. Both are under the authorship of Steve Cham, voluntary national Dragonfly Recording Network co-ordinator for the BDS.

The BDS is indebted to the late Elsie Eyres, who sadly passed away in 2007. Though unable to be an active member, she nevertheless took great delight in the publications and had a keen interest in the activities and progress of the Society. In her Will, Elsie left a significant legacy to the Society, and we are very grateful to her.

1. The Society

The Society shall be called the 'British Dragonfly Society'. It is a non-profit making Society with no political convictions.

2. Objectives of the Society

The aims of the Society are to promote and encourage the study and conservation of Odonata and their natural habitats, especially in the United Kingdom.

3. Trustees' Report

Aims of study and conservation

Study of the requirements of each individual species of dragonfly is an essential ingredient of all conservation measures. To this end, one of the Society's principle activities is concerned with increasing its corporate knowledge, by carrying out surveys, surveillance of sites, and by attempting to determine the habitat requirements of each of our resident species. Following on from this, we aim to share the knowledge gained with as many as possible of those whose job it is to take care of the environment. This is achieved both through direct contact and through public events, other meetings and publicity in the national press.

Meetings

We hold one main indoor meeting a year, the Members' Day, at which members and guest speakers show digital presentations, slides, videos and cine' film on various odonatological subjects. These meetings are not confined to members of the Society and guests are welcomed at all of our meetings. Through publicising the existence and work of the Society we aim to become the obvious and automatic source of information and advice on all odonatological matters.

Another way of sharing knowledge is by organising field meetings in as many different parts of the country as possible and, during the past year, nearly thirty such meetings took place throughout England and Scotland.

The Dragonfly Conservation Group

The Dragonfly Conservation Group (DCG) of the Society enables us to act nationally as advisors on odonatological matters, to take part in projects and to promote conservation activities that will benefit dragonflies and their habitats. The DCG works closely with the Society's two members of staff, dragonfly recorders, conservation agencies and NGOs. It oversees data collection, grant administration and co-ordinates consultation responses. DCG members are drawn from a wide geographical area within Great Britain and represent a diverse range of conservation, research and educational backgrounds.

During the past year the DCG has been involved with a number of new and continuing initiatives:

- a. Projects to re-introduce Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isosceles* to the fens and Southern Damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* to sites in Devon have faltered during habitat restoration work. Work continues to overcome the problems encountered, as does restoration work at a site for the latter species in the New Forest. The DCG also supported and commented on a proposal to re-introduce White-faced Darter *Leucorrhinia dubia* to Foulshaw Moss in Cumbria.
- b. The annual National Dragonfly Week once again raised public awareness of dragonflies and promoted a number of events in June. Local publicity organised by regional event leaders resulted in events being very well attended.
- c. Members of the DCG continue to promote the understanding of dragonfly biology and the conservation of dragonflies by giving talks, running workshops and attending numerous events nationwide with BDS displays and educational materials. An ongoing service is also provided responding to a variety of queries from a wide range of individuals and organisations.
- d. The DCG has responded to further consultations regarding the Broads Flood Alleviation Project in Norfolk and Suffolk. This area holds vulnerable habitats and important breeding populations of odonata including Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isosceles*.
- e. Young people have been encouraged to get involved with dragonfly conservation and study through the Peter Miller Schools Pond Award grant scheme. Five awards were made to schools during the current year and reports from recipient schools have appeared in the BDS newsletter.
- f. To promote the recording of critical breeding stages, the Society published a Field Guide to the larvae and exuviae of British Dragonflies in October 2007. This has been extremely well received in the field, and has successfully become established as an essential guide for serious odonatologists. It was produced by DCG member Steve Cham, with support from the rest of the Group, and work on a complementary guide to damselflies is underway.

- g. Work has begun by DCG members on a thorough revision of the Society's booklet on Managing Habitats for Dragonflies. When complete, it is intended to make it available principally by download from the BDS website.

The BDS **Conservation Officer**, Caroline Daguet, left in May 2007, overlapping briefly with her successor, Katharine Parkes. This post is funded until April 2010 by contributions from Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and has allowed the BDS to undertake a number of projects, including:

- a. an online Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa* survey in conjunction with Monks Wood BRC, which proved almost as popular with the public as the previous year's online Banded Demoiselle survey. 'Flytech' donated up to fifteen of their new robotic dragonflies to the BDS as prizes for the first fifteen confirmed records of Broad-bodied Chaser to be submitted to the survey by the under-16s.
- b. collection of specimens from Scotland and England for a Cambridge University DNA analysis to determine the taxonomic status of the Highland Darter *Sympetrum nigrescens*. The results show that there is no evidence to support the retention of *S. nigrescens* as a full species.

The full time Conservation Officer allows representation of the BDS on relevant forums, including Invertebrate Link, as well as involvement in other large initiatives such as Biodiversity Action Planning. This includes both direct involvement and acting in an advisory capacity on both National and Local BAPs, with a particular emphasis on the national *Coenagrion mercuriale* Species Action Plan. Many queries received by phone or e-mail have been answered, ranging from species identification requests to seeking advice on habitat creation, restoration and management. Replies have been prompt and the information on the BDS web site (www.dragonflysoc.org.uk) has been updated further to take account of the most frequently asked questions. The Conservation Officer has also participated in education activities and events aimed at raising awareness of dragonflies and their habitats. This includes presentations to primary school pupils, and staffing the BDS stand at the Rutland Birdfair and various other UK, regional, and local events.

The **Dragonflies in Focus Project** began in April 2007 with three years' funding from Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, and Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The DiF Project Officer, Graham French, completed the production of Key Sites criteria for the BDS website before he left us in September 2007. There was a brief overlap with his successor, Steve Prentice, who continues to maintain the national dragonfly dataset (over half a million records) and pass it on the NBN Gateway for the benefit of dragonfly conservation. The DiF project may in future require extra time from an additional person and money for this has been built into the DiF project.

During the year the following have also been achieved:

- a. Better communication with most of our Dragonfly Recording Network Recorders, some 30 of whom attended a Recorders Day at Milton Keynes in April 2007. Discussions covered the current state of records and recording, the importance of recording evidence of breeding and early plans for a new national atlas project.
- b. A review of data systems has begun in order to improve flow of data in the DRN. Part of this will include finding a replacement for the Darter recording software. In the meantime, work with partners in Sussex allowed the release of a spreadsheet for easily inputting records.
- c. Conversion of the national database from Recorder 2002 to Recorder 6, thereby removing a restriction on the number of records that can be held and keeping the database technologically up-to-date. This also allows for easier transfer of records.
- d. Preparations for the launch of the atlas project in April 2008.



Chris Packham joins the BDS team at the British Birdwatching Fair © Pam Taylor

Education

Spreading the word about dragonflies and their conservation is extremely important to the Society, so as well as the Journal of the BDS, which contains scientific articles on dragonflies, we also produce an informal but informative Newsletter, 'Dragonfly News'. Both publications are twice-yearly. Our two booklets, "Dig a Pond for Dragonflies" and "Managing Habitats for Dragonflies" continue to be requested by conservation groups and members of the public. The latter is currently being rewritten and updated, after which it will be available as a download from the BDS website. We also produce an educational booklet aimed at 7 to 11 years olds entitled "Learning about Dragonflies" which is much appreciated by schools for their many projects.

Publicity

In addition to events such as the Birdfair at Rutland Water mentioned above, many Society members also give talks and slide shows to local interested groups. The Society contributes a regular article in the magazine "British Wildlife" and actively seeks other opportunities to produce articles in relevant wildlife publications. The BDS website continues to attract visitors from all over the world and gives the public a ready source of free information.

Future Plans

We intend to continue in our aims to consolidate our financial reserves and resources so that we are able to respond effectively to calls for assistance when and where they are required.

The six-year **Dragonflies in Focus** project aims to produce robust and repeatable methods of recording and monitoring the status of Dragonflies in Britain by :

- Developing a sustainable system for gathering, managing and using information about the status of dragonflies in the UK;
- Providing access to authoritative and reliable information on dragonflies, in particular through the National Biodiversity Network (NBN);
- Putting dragonflies more securely 'on the map' in the UK, through increased involvement of the British Dragonfly Society's membership and the broader public;
- Producing a new revised Atlas of UK Dragonflies (which can be used as a focal point for the above developments)

These will be achieved by:

- Developing the recording and monitoring programme,
- Improving the scope and quality of records,
- Developing, in partnership with local organisations, a national system for collating and managing dragonfly records,
- Increasing participation by volunteers in a range of surveillance activities,
- Sharing information with other organisations via the NBN

This work is expected to culminate in the publishing of a revised national atlas of dragonflies in 2013.

The BDS is making preliminary investigations into the acquisition of a long-term permanent building to act as a Dragonfly Centre. In the interim, plans have been initiated to work in partnership with the Dragonfly Project and National Trust at Wicken Fen to establish a small dragonfly interpretation centre there with associated activities.

Receipts and Payments - CONSOFF Account

B1: Receipts & Payments, 2007/08 & 2006/07 (year ending 31st March)

Receipts		Donor (Key below)	2007/08 £	2006/07 £	Payments	2007/08 £	2006/07 £
Grants							
<u>Dragonfly Conservation Officer (DCO)</u>					<u>DCO & Key Sites Projects:</u>		
	EFF		5,000.00	-	Salaries	42,170.03	42,083.33
	NE		6,000.00	12,000.00	Employer's NIC	4,092.21	4,096.43
	EA		10,000.00	20,000.00	Employer's pension contribution	780.00	1,400.00
	BWW		-	1,000.00	Conferences & Training	246.00	140.00
	RSPB		-	2,000.00	Subscriptions	36.00	30.00
	Sub-total		21,000.00	35,000.00	Payroll and other office expenses	447.04	190.48
<u>Dragonflies in Focus (DIF)</u>					Travel	4,350.02	2,837.20
	EA		-	10,000.00	Books, equipment & software	566.98	222.27
	SEPA		-	5,000.00	Insurance	484.94	449.86
	EFF		20,000.00	-	Miscellaneous	202.65	91.08
	NBN (KS*)		0.00	11,803.00			
	SNH		1,585.56	-			
	CCW		16,000.00	-			
	Sub-total		37,585.56	26,803.00			
<u>Other Projects</u>					Sub-total	53,375.87	51,540.65
	Odonata Survey	CCW	-	915.00	<u>Other Projects:</u>		
	Odonata Ecology Report	EA	2,459.00	-	Other projects & support costs	-	448.20
	Sub-total		2,459.00	915.00			
Total Grants received in the year			61,044.56	62,718.00			
Other income							
	Interest (COIF Consoff Fund)		3,198.41	2,011.84			
	Online tax bonus		150.00	250.00			
	Miscellaneous		1,085.00	85.00			
Total Receipts in the year			65,477.97	65,064.84	Total Payments in the year	53,375.87	51,988.85

Surplus Receipts over Payments

12,102.10 **13,075.99**

[b]

Supplementary Tables

B2: Analysis of Grants for each year

Projects	Donor (Key below)	2007/08 £	2006/07 £
1. Dragonfly Conservation Officer (DCO)	BW	-	1,000.00
	EA	10,000.00	10,000.00
	EFF	5,000.00	12,000.00
	NE	12,000.00	12,000.00
	RSPB	-	2,000.00
Total for Consoff project		27,000.00	37,000.00
2. Dragonflies in Focus	CCW	16,000.00	-
	EA	10,000.00	-
	EFF	20,000.00	-
	SEPA	5,000.00	-
	SNH	2,772.90	-
Total for DIF		53,772.90	0.00
3. Other Projects			
a. Odonata Survey at Cors Fochno	CCW	-	915.00
b. Odonata Ecology Report	EA	2,459.00	-
Total for other projects		2,459.00	915.00
Total Grants for the year		83,231.90	37,915.00
plus: Late final instalment for project	Project		
Grants for following year	KS* NBN	-	11,803.00
ditto	DCO EA EA	10,000.00	10,000.00
ditto	DIF EA	-	10,000.00
ditto	DIF SEPA	-	5,000.00
less: Grants from previous year	DCO EA EFF	-10,000.00	-12,000.00
ditto	DIF EA	-10,000.00	-
ditto	DIF SEPA	-5,000.00	-
Grants received in following year	DCO EA	-6,000.00	-
ditto	DIF SNH	-1,187.34	-
Total Grants received in the year		61,044.56	62,718.00

* KS: Key Sites Project which evolved into the DIF Project in April 2007

B3: Key to Donors (and total grants for each year)

Key	Organization	2007/08				2006/07
		DCO £	DIF £	Other £	Total £	Total £
BW	British Waterways	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales	-	16,000.00	-	16,000.00	915.00
EA	Environment Agency	10,000.00	10,000.00	2,459.00	22,459.00	10,000.00
EFF	Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	5,000.00	20,000.00	-	25,000.00	12,000.00
NE	Natural England**	12,000.00	-	-	12,000.00	12,000.00
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	-	-	-	-	2,000.00
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage	-	2,772.90	-	2,772.90	-
Total Grants for the year		27,000.00	53,772.90	2,459.00	83,231.90	37,915.00

** Formerly 'English Nature'

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

C1: STATEMENT OF ASSETS

Assets	A/c ref	As at 31 Mar'08 £	Change in 2007/08 £	Transfers in 2007/08 £	As at 31 Mar'06 £
CASH					
Life Fund (COIF)	(1)	31,893.57	0.00	0.00	31,893.57
BDS General Fund (COIF)	(2)	132,000.00	-	80,000.00	52,000.00
BDS General a/c	(3)	19,754.60	99,060.89 [a]	-80,000.00	693.71
General Fund		151,754.60	99,060.89	0.00	52,693.71
CONSOFF dep. a/c (COIF)	(4)	60,000.00	-		60,000.00
CONSOFF current a/c	(5)	38,104.18	12,102.10 [b]		26,002.08
Consoff Fund		98,104.18	12,102.10	0.00	86,002.08
TOTAL CASH		281,752.35	111,162.99	0.00	170,589.36

Assets	c/f 31 Mar'07 £	Payment outstanding £	Cost of stock sold £	Stock adjustment £	New stock purchased £	b/f 31 Mar'06 £
STOCK						
Shop (inc Binders & Brooks' book)	1,388.09	0.00	-720.58	-336.53	370.90	2,074.30
Larvae Field Guide	1,406.79	-124.74	-776.16	-0.90	2,308.59	0.00
Videos	56.16	0.00	-6.24	0.00	0.00	62.40
TOTAL STOCK	2,851.04	-124.74	-1,502.98	-337.43	2,679.49	2,136.70
TOTAL ASSETS	284,603.39	-	-	-	-	172,726.06

NOTES

The General Fund includes £6,500 for Southern Damselfly projects and £2,499 for a study of the conservation genetics of rare damselflies by the University of Liverpool.

The CONSOFF Fund includes £10,000 received in 2007/08 for expenses in 2008/09 and £2,459 for Southern Damselfly genotyping.

Stock: a. Adjustments: principally the write-off of car stickers with the old BDS emblem (£365.40).
b. Payment outstanding for Larvae Guides: £117.81 for cost of 51 copies against invoices to retailers and £6.93 where cheques for 3 copies were not received by 31/3/08

C2: BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank & Deposit Fund Statements ~ Accounts	A/c ref	2007/08 £	2006/07 £
BDS			
Life Fund (COIF) per statement, 31st March		31,893.57	31,853.57
Transfer due from BDS		-	40.00
Accounts total	(1)	31,893.57	31,893.57
BDS General Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March			
	(2)	132,000.00	52,000.00
BDS a/c per bank statement, 31st March			
		20,776.98	1,018.05
Transfer due to Life Fund		-	-40.00
Unpresented cheques		-1,043.58	-288.29
Cash on hand		21.20	3.95
Accounts total	(3)	19,754.60	693.71
CONSOFF			
CONSOFF Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(4)	60,000.00	60,000.00
CONSOFF a/c per bank statement, 31st March			
		38,104.18	35,852.99
Unpresented cheques		-	-9,850.91
Accounts total	(5)	38,104.18	26,002.08

**Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
Reported to the Trustees of the British Dragonfly Society
for the year ended 31 March 2008**

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 seeking 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 accounts.

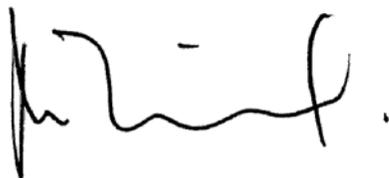
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with 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 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act 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.



Date 23/11/08

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Qualification LLb,ACA

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