

British Dragonfly Society

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2009





British Dragonfly Society

Registered Charity No 800196

Patron

Sir David Attenborough OM CH FRS

Charity's principal address

23 Bowker Way, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1PY

Trustees and Committee Members as at 31 March 2009

Trustee	Position
Dr P Taylor	Chairman
Dr D Gennard	Vice-Chairman
Mr H G Curry	Hon. Secretary
Mr B Walker	Hon. Treasurer
Mr D Smallshire	Convenor of Dragonfly Conservation Group
Mr S Brooks	
Mr D Goddard	
Mr P Reeve	
Mr S Davidson	

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 Society are Lloyds TSB.

Cover photos

Front: Sir David Attenborough at the British Birdwatching Fair 2008 © Pam Taylor

Back: Northern Damselfly *Coenagrion hastulatum* photographed on the BDS trip to Bulgaria © Pam Taylor



1. Chairman's Introduction

In May 2008, we were delighted to welcome Sir David Attenborough OM CH FRS as our second Patron, following in the footsteps of Dame Miriam Rothschild. When invited to take on this role, Sir David said in his acceptance letter that he was extremely flattered by the invitation. He went on to say "... my knowledge of the Odonata is so very limited. But my delight in these wonderful insects and my respect for my predecessor is so great that I cannot resist accepting. So I do so with the greatest of pleasure."

Sir David was the celebrity lecturer at the British Birdwatching Fair, Rutland Water in August and made a special visit to the BDS stand where he met our 'Birdfair Team'. He made a number of purchases to improve his knowledge of dragonflies and spoke to everyone present on the stand that day. He proved himself to be both charming and witty when he wore a BDS cotton bag and posed for photographs (cover picture).

There were major changes within the Trustees of the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) during the time covered by this report. Dr Pam Taylor, former Convenor of the Dragonfly Conservation Group (DCG), became Chairman of the Society. She replaced Dr Peter Mill who completed his four year term of office at the end of April 2008. Dave Smallshire, already a member of the DCG, took over as Convenor and joined the Board. Brian Walker replaced Tony Carter as Treasurer, following Tony's request to retire from the position after seven years' service. Dave Goddard and Peter Reeve were invited to join the Board, replacing former Trustees who both resigned for personal reasons. As part of the normal rotation of Trustees, Simon Davidson joined the Board until 2012.

Thankfully there were no staff changes during this time. Katharine Parkes was now well settled into her role as BDS Conservation Officer and dealing with an ever-increasing workload for the Society. Stephen Prentice continued to oversee the Dragonflies in Focus (DiF) project, collating and managing dragonfly data at the national level, as well as planning new initiatives such as the Pilot Monitoring Scheme for launch in early 2009.

Funding for both our Conservation Officer and our Dragonflies in Focus Officer is secure 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 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. Related to this a second Dragonfly Recording Network (DRN) meeting was held prior to the start of the 2008 dragonfly season and attended by over 30 Vice County Recorders (VCR). Plans for the first full atlas recording year were made and the role of VCRs in this respect was discussed. This meeting was followed by a national launch event for the atlas which took place at the Natural History Museum and was



introduced by Chris Packham. 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.

Following on from the successful event at the Natural History Museum in April, which gained substantial media coverage, the BDS had a fantastic year for publicity thanks to advice from Alan Geere, a media advisor. Our press releases about dragonflies made the national newspapers on more than one occasion, resulting in several radio interviews. Dave Smallshire, DCG Convenor, was interviewed by BBC1 presenter Mike Dilger and made a television appearance on *The One Show*. The Society continued to contribute a regular article in the magazine "British Wildlife" and actively sought other opportunities to produce articles in relevant wildlife publications. The BDS website continued to attract visitors from all over the world and gave the public a ready source of free information.

JNCC finally published our full revision of the Odonata Red Data List during November 2008. This work had been completed by the Dragonfly Conservation Group of the BDS for expected publication during 2007, but had been delayed by changes within JNCC. The Red Data List project highlighted gaps in the DRN dataset that continue to be filled by work for the DiF project.

The BDS continued to attend various wildlife, countryside and other public events around the country. Katharine Parkes and Stephen Prentice frequently represented the BDS at these events, but BDS Trustees and other volunteers often attended those in their local area. As mentioned above, the BDS once again had a stand at the three-day British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water. The Society was also represented at more regional events such as Wild about Norfolk, Family Fortnight at RHS Harlow Carr and the National Insect Week launch event at Chelsea Physic Garden. These events, and numerous others like them, allowed the BDS to give advice to the general public, raise awareness about dragonfly conservation, recruit new members and renew contact with our existing membership.

Another initiative to improve contact with the BDS membership was the launch in August 2008 of the BDS Update. This newssheet was sent to Trustees, DCG members, Local Group Leaders and Vice County Recorders on a regular basis to bridge the gap between publication dates of the BDS spring and autumn mailings of the magazine and journal. It served to keep the key volunteers of the Society informed about ongoing business and allowed them to prepare for future announcements that were to be made to the BDS membership in the regular publications. It also encouraged vertical dialogue between the various levels of BDS which should lead to greater involvement for our membership.



2. The Society

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

3. 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.

4. 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.

Policy documents

The Code of Practice on Collecting Dragonflies was revised by the DCG and then agreed by Trustees in October 2008. This document explains best practice for the temporary capture, examination and immediate release of live insects for identification or education reasons. It also recognises the scientific need for more permanent study collections, which may, infrequently, necessitate the killing and preserving of specimens. Policies were also agreed on Local Groups, Planning, Staff Expenses and the Use of Photographs.



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 Cambridgeshire fens and Southern Damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* to a site in Devon both faltered during habitat restoration work. Work continued to overcome the problems encountered, as did restoration work at a site for the latter species in the New Forest. It is hoped that the re-introduction of Southern Damselfly to the Devon site will resume during 2009.
- b. The annual National Dragonfly Week was once again held in June and served to raise public awareness of dragonflies and promote a number of events. Local publicity organised by regional event leaders resulted in events being very well attended.
- c. A review of species status within Britain resulted in the publication of a revised and categorised UK Species List. There are now 42 species listed in Category A: resident and/or migrant species recorded since 1970. Other categories list vagrants, former breeding species and accidental introductions.
- 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* and Scarce Chaser *Libellula fulva*.
- e. Young people have been encouraged to get involved with dragonfly conservation and study through the Peter Miller Schools Pond Fund grant scheme. Awards were made to a number of schools during the current year and reports from previous recipient schools appeared in the BDS magazine.
- f. The DCG is mindful of SSSIs that have significant dragonfly populations and continued to respond with advice and guidance when these sites were threatened by habitat loss, inappropriate management or other problems.



The **BDS Conservation Officer**, Katharine Parkes, is funded until April 2010 by contributions from Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The post 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 Southern Damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* Species Action Plan and recently listed Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isosceles*.

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 website (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 as well as stands at various other UK, regional and local events.

The work of the Conservation Officer has allowed the BDS to undertake a number of extra projects, including:

- a. The writing of ten dragonfly walks for Bird Watching magazine which resulted in a much higher profile for dragonflies amongst bird-watchers, the publishing of a pull-out guide to commoner species and free advertising space for the Society.
- b. Drafting of a paper relating to the DNA analysis of the Highland Darter *Sympetrum nigrescens* to determine its taxonomic status. The results show that there is no evidence to support the retention of *S. nigrescens* as a full species. This work was carried out in partnership with Cambridge University.
- c. Support for the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust with a dragonfly sculpture competition run during the spring.



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 and Natural England. The DiF Project Officer, Stephen Prentice, continues to maintain the national dragonfly dataset of over 600,000 records and pass it on the NBN Gateway for the benefit of dragonfly conservation. The six-year DiF 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 in 2013 (which can be used as a focal point for the above developments before that date).

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.

During the year the following have also been achieved:

- a. Improved communication with most of our Vice County Recorders (VCR), over 30 of whom attended the second annual DRN Day at Brandon Marsh, Coventry.
- b. National launch of the DiF Project held at the Natural History Museum in April.
- c. A full species listing for all 10km squares, so that VCRs can target future recording.
- d. Modification of the Species Recorder software, first developed by Sussex Biological Records Centre, for use by the DRN.
- e. Development and testing of a Darter version of AditSite, to be known as AditSite Darter, which it is hoped will replace the former software used by DRN recorders.
- f. Preparations for the launch of a pilot monitoring scheme in spring 2009.



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 magazine, 'Dragonfly News'. Both publications are twice-yearly. Our two booklets, "Dig a Pond for Dragonflies" and "Managing Habitats for Dragonflies" continued to be requested by conservation groups and members of the public. Both are currently being rewritten and updated, after which they will be available as a download from the BDS website.

We also produce an educational booklet aimed at 7 to 11 year olds entitled 'Learning about Dragonflies', which is much appreciated by schools for their many projects. For the more dedicated enthusiasts the recently published 'Field Guide to the larvae and exuviae of British Dragonflies' is proving useful. It is enabling the improved recording of breeding status for many of our species. A second guide dealing with damselflies is currently being prepared by Steve Cham with assistance from his DCG colleagues and should be published in 2009.

Future Plans

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

The BDS is progressing plans to work in partnership with the Dragonfly Project and National Trust at Wicken Fen to establish a small Dragonfly Centre there with associated activities. A former fen worker's cottage will be renovated by the National Trust and the BDS is working with the Dragonfly Project to produce interpretive materials and fit out the new Centre with study equipment, dragonfly artifacts and static displays. The Centre should be ready to open during the summer of 2009 and once finished will have both a raised pond and a more typical garden pond outside, together with display boards explaining their positioning, construction and planting.



Receipts and Payments - General Account

British Dragonfly Society - General Account

A1: Receipts & Payments, 2008/09 & 2007/08 (year ending 31st March)

Receipts		2008/09 £	2007/08 £	Payments		2008/09 £	2007/08 £
Current							
Subscriptions	Corporate	-	-	Printing and related costs:			
	Associate		25.00		a. Journal & Dragonfly News		
	Library	60.00	60.00		Printing	7,768.94	9,066.00
	Ordinary	17,280.00	15,812.00		Handling & Mailing	2,197.94	1,632.38
		17,340.00	15,897.00		b. Annual Report	-	17.50
Donations	General	2,643.70	1,984.45		c. Larvae Field Guide	-	2,308.59
	Members' day	509.00	551.00		d. Other printing & handling	191.61	391.74
	For Education Pack		36.00			10,158.49	13,416.21
	From royalties on publications*	58.70	2,550.34		Exhibitions & Fairs	1,066.04	621.19
		3,211.40	5,121.79		Members' Day, costs/facilities	1,206.74	1,272.26
Inland Revenue Gift Aid			3,071.38		Dragonfly Centre	433.00	-
Interest	COIF General and Life Funds	7,971.47	4,537.64			2,705.78	1,893.45
					Trustees & DCG expenses		
Sales	Shop sales and P&P	2,016.10	806.25		Postage/stationary	33.24	142.89
	Wallcharts	104.00	65.00		Other office	25.39	105.88
	Journals CD	246.00	103.67		Travel & Accommodation	447.05	513.75
	Binders	56.50	73.00		Meeting facilities	81.49	322.02
	Videos		10.00			587.17	1,084.54
	Brooks book	63.00	117.00		Dragonfly Conservation Group		
	Gibson & Others CD	19.00	10.00		Projects	100.00	1,570.59
	Booklets	164.00	68.00		Research	-	871.82
	Journals and Newsletter	62.25	32.10		Donations & Awards	3,050.00	500.00
	Larvae Field Guide	1,508.26	2,364.55			3,150.00	2,942.41
		4,239.11	3,649.57		Cost of:		
Other	Adverts (Dragonfly News)	190.00	-		Shop goods & expenses	763.16	714.28
	Suspense a/c	-	251.00		Wallcharts	-	47.27
	Miscellaneous	-	1.00			763.16	761.55
	Dragonfly Project for Birdfair	519.02	-		Other:		
		709.02	252.00		Membership Office	1436.5	1647.42
					Website	114.89	124.17
					Insurance	1,077.21	1,069.35
					Refund of overpayments	105.00	105.00
					Subscriptions (WDA)	-	60.00
					Miscellaneous	-	133.95
						2,733.60	3,139.89
Sub-total: Current Receipts		33,471.00	32,529.38	Sub-total: Current Payments		20,098.20	23,238.05
<i>Current surplus</i>		<i>13,372.80</i>	<i>9,291.33</i>				
Capital	Legacy		81,770.56	S. Damselfly Genotyping Project		2,499.00	-
	Special donations		5,500.00				
	S. Damselfly Genotyping Project		2,499.00				
Sub-total: Capital Receipts			89,769.56	Sub-total: Capital Payments		2,499.00	
Total Receipts		33,471.00	122,298.94	Total Payments		22,597.20	23,238.05

Surplus: Current & Capital

10,873.80	99,060.89
(A)	

*Publication Royalties donated to BDS

Publication		
Britain's Dragonflies', Smallshire & Swash	-	2,000.00
Dragonflies of Hampshire', Taverner, Cham & Hold	58.70	150.34
British Wildlife article [Vol: 19(2), Dec 07]	-	400.00
Total	58.70	2,550.34



Receipts and Payments – Conservation & Dragonflies in Focus Projects Account (CONSOFF)

British Dragonfly Society - CONSOFF Account

B1: Receipts & Payments, 2008/09 & 2007/08 (year ending 31st March)

Receipts		2008/09 £	2007/08 £	Payments		2008/09 £	2007/08 £
Grants	Dragonfly Conservation Officer (DCO)			DCO & DIF Projects			
	EFF	5,000.00	5,000.00	Salaries		41,502.00	42,170.03
	NE	18,000.00	6,000.00	Employer's NIC		3,920.40	4,092.21
	EA	22,500.00	10,000.00	Employer's Pension Contributions			780.00
	Sub-total	45,500.00	21,000.00	Data input		790.00	
				Conference & Training		75.00	246.00
	Dragonflies in Focus (DIF)			Subscriptions		20.00	36.00
	EA	10,000.00		Payroll and other Administration		352.18	447.04
	SEPA			Travel & subsistence		5,520.99	4,350.02
	EFF	20,000.00	20,000.00	Books, equipment & software		1,492.06	566.98
	SNH	7,255.67	1,585.56	Insurance		436.71	484.94
	CCW	16,000.00	16,000.00	Miscellaneous		246.00	202.65
	Sub-total	53,255.67	37,585.56	Sub-total		54,355.34	53,375.87
Other projects				Other projects			
	Odonata Ecology Report		2,459.00	Atlas Launch		3,114.18	
	EA			Odonata Ecology Report		2,459.00	
	Sub-total		2,459.00	ADIT Darter Development		1,175.00	
Total Grants received in year		98,755.67	61,044.56				
Other Income							
	Interest (COIF CONSOFF Fund)	3,218.65	3,198.41				
	Online tax bonus	100.00	150.00				
	Payment for information	400.00					
	Donations	165.00					
	Miscellaneous		1,085.00				
Total receipts in year		102,639.32	65,477.97	Total Payments in the year		61,103.52	53,375.87

Surplus receipts over Payments

41,535.80	12,102.10
(B)	

Key to Donors

Key	Organisation
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
EA	Environment Agency
EFF	Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
NE	Natural England
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage



Statement of Assets & Liabilities

British Dragonfly Society Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2009

C1 STATEMENT OF ASSETS

Assets	A/c ref	As at 31-Mar-09 £	Change in 2008/09 £	Transfers in 2008/09 £	As at 31-Mar-08 £
CASH					
Life Fund (COIF)	(1)	31,893.57	0.00	0.00	31,893.57
BDS General Fund (COIF)	(2)	132,000.00	0.00	0.00	132,000.00
BDS General a/c	(3)	30,628.40	10,873.80	0.00	19,754.60
General Fund		194,521.97	10,873.80	0.00	183,648.17
			(A)		
CONSOFF dep a/c (COIF)	(4)	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00
CONSOFF current a/c	(5)	79,639.98	41,535.80	0.00	38,104.18
Consoff fund		139,639.98	41,535.80	0.00	98,104.18
			(B)		
TOTAL CASH		334,161.95	52,409.60	0.00	281,752.35

Assets	c/f 31-Mar-09 £	Payment outstanding £	Cost of stock sold £	Stock adjustment £	New stock purchased £	c/f 31-Mar-08 £
TOTAL STOCK	1,977.36		1,483.01	-1.55	540.92	2,921.00
TOTAL ASSETS	336,139.31					284,673.35

NOTES

- The general fund includes £6,500 for Southern Damselfly projects
- £2,499 for a study of conservation genetics of rare damselflies (Southern Damselfly) by the University of Liverpool was paid out in 2008/09
- The CONSOFF Fund includes £2,459 for Southern Damselfly genotyping

C2 BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank & Deposit Fund Statements - Accounts	A/c ref	2008/09 £	2007/08 £
BDS			
Life Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(1)	31,893.57	31,893.57
BDS General Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(2)	132,000.00	132,000.00
BDS a/c per bank statement at 31st March		30,657.20	20,776.98
Transfer due to Life Fund			
Unpresented cheques		-50.00	-1,043.58
Cash on Hand		21.20	21.20
Accounts total	(3)	30,628.40	19,754.60
CONSOFF			
CONSOFF Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(4)	60,000.00	60,000.00
CONSOFF a/c per bank statement at 31st March		79,774.87	38,104.18
Unpresented cheques		-134.89	
Accounts total	(5)	79,639.98	38,104.18



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Dragonfly Society

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2009, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

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 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 1993 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.

Name:

 (T. Schofield)

Relevant professional qualification or body:

ULB, ACA

Address:

20 LYMBAYEN RD, HAVANT

Date

13/10/09



Published by:

The British Dragonfly Society
23 Bowker Way,
Whittlesey,
Peterborough
PE7 1PY
01733 204286

www.dragonflysoc.org.uk