

British Dragonfly Society



Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended **31 March 2024**

Registered Charity No 1168300 (England and Wales)

SC049416 (Scotland)

British Dragonfly Society

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Legal and Administrative Information

Patron

Sir David Attenborough OM CH FRS

President

Mike Dilger

Charity's principal address

Ashcroft, Brington Road, Old Weston, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 5LP

Trustees and Committee Members as at 31st March 2024

Mr Tim Coleshaw, Chair

Mr Brian Walker, Treasurer

Ms Carolyn Cooksey, Hon. Secretary

Dr Pam Taylor, Convenor of Dragonfly Conservation Group

Mr Peter Brown

Ms Bailey Tate

Ms Carmel Edwards

Mr Josh Younespour

Professor Mike Lehane (to November 2023)

Staff

Miss Eleanor Colver, Conservation Officer

Ms Daniele Muir, Scottish Officer (Conservation)

Ms Andrea Hudspeth, Scottish Officer (Projects)

Mrs Sarah Miller, Fundraiser

Miss Lauren Kennedy, Conservation Outreach Officer

Miss Jessica Slight, Administration Officer

Bankers

The Bankers of the Society are Lloyds plc and CCLA Investments.

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

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BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

1. About the Society

Aims

The aims of the British Dragonfly Society (BDS), as stated in Article II of our Constitution, are *“to promote and encourage the study, conservation and understanding of Odonata and their natural habitats, especially in the United Kingdom, and to raise public awareness of dragonflies”*.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the aims of the Society. The BDS is a non-profit making Society with no political affiliations or stance.

Study and conservation

Within the BDS there are two main inter-linked areas of interest, dragonfly recording and dragonfly conservation. The first of these involves encouraging individual enthusiasts to collect and submit records to the BDS Recording Scheme. These records are reviewed by County Dragonfly Recorders (CDR) to check accuracy and ensure that the data is validated. The purpose of these records is not simply to document what is present, but also to identify topics and aspects which would benefit from research and inform the second main area of interest, that of dragonfly conservation. Records help us to understand the value of a site and information about population size and breeding behaviour allows us to assess the importance of an area for species survival. Dragonflies are good indicators of the health of a habitat; if they are thriving then it is a good indication that the smaller insects on which they prey are also abundant and thus that there is a high level of biodiversity. Any variation in distribution or population size can indicate that changes on a wider environmental scale are occurring and need to be investigated.

Education and training are important tools in conservation and have become an increasingly important aspect of our work. Raising public awareness is vital because people need to appreciate something and recognise its value in order to want to preserve it, so providing information to an ever-widening audience is an important objective for the Society. We aim to share the knowledge gained with both those working in conservation and with the general public. This is achieved both through direct contact and through public events, other meetings and publicity in the national press and social media.

2. Chair's Overview

The Society ran or participated in a full programme of events during the year. Our Annual Meeting and AGM was held in person at Nottingham Trent University in November 2023 with a good attendance and provided an opportunity for members to meet up for the first time since the start of

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

the pandemic. Our Spring Meeting in March 2024 was held on-line to enable the largest number of participants, including those from overseas.

Successful launch events were held at our two new Dragonfly Hotspots at the London Wetland Centre and at Panshanger Park in Hertfordshire. Those attending guided walks at launch events saw Norfolk Hawker, a species which is currently undergoing a significant expansion in range, at both sites. We also had a stand at the Global Bird Fair and attended a number of other events across the country. In addition we organised guided walks in many counties, with most led by volunteers from our membership.

Membership grew modestly during the year and there was a continued growth in social media interactions about dragonflies involving both members and non-members. We took the decision to increase subscriptions for the first time in 10 years and the annual subscription for an individual will increase from £20 to £25 from 1 April 2024 with pro-rata increases for other categories. At the same time we have introduced an option to pay by direct debit with a monthly or annual payment.

There have been a number of changes in the organisation of the Society to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. Sarah Miller is now line manager to all staff and reports to the Chair in this role. Jess Slight, our Membership and Operations Officer, who was newly appointed at the start of the year has progressively taken over a range of administrative tasks. This has included the BDS Shop after Peter Brown decided to step down as our volunteer shop manager and she has rationalised the existing range of sale items and introduced new items including branded clothing items via a supplier which applies the design at the time of order, thus avoiding stock holding and wastage. Jess is also progressively taking over book-keeping duties from the Treasurer.

The Trustee Board had one resignation during the year but the decision was made to increase the membership and range of skills available and three new volunteers were recruited at the end of the year and will be put forward for election at the AGM in 2024. One aim of the recruitment exercise was to recruit a Scottish resident to the Trustees and two of the three are based in Scotland. Brian Walker, our current Trustee, must stand down at the end of 2024 according to our Constitution, having then served nine years as a Trustee. Efforts to recruit a new Treasurer were unsuccessful during the recruitment exercise but efforts are continuing, as is the transfer of book-keeping type duties to our Membership and Operations Officer.

We have continued to implement our Strategy through our 5 year work plan. During the year we have reviewed our Volunteer Policy, developed a new policy for Safeguarding and have appointed a Safeguarding Officer from within the Trustee Board. We have also reviewed our staff pay grades and have introduced a new Pay and Employment Policy which includes a system of incremental steps on the pay scale. We are also developing a new Communications Strategy for the Society which will identify our key target audiences and will be launched later in 2024. We have also initiated the creation of a Youth Panel to help increase our appeal to younger audiences.

3. Funding Successes

This year was the final year of funding from the John Ellerman Foundation and from Impact Scotland for the Volunteer Project. We continue to receive funding from NatureScot towards our work in Scotland and Cairngorm National Park Authority provided funding for the study to identify potential sites for new ponds to benefit Northern Damselflies. We received some funding from Forest and

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Land Scotland as part of our partnership agreement with them. Members have continued to donate to our fund for Dragonfly Hotspots and this has enabled us to fund or contribute to funding for boards at the London Wetland Centre and at existing Dragonfly Hotspots in Scotland at Scotstown Moor, Flanders Moss and Argaty. The information board and Dragonfly Trail signs at Panshanger Park Dragonfly Hotspot were funded by Tarmac, the site owner.

4. Conservation and Outreach in England and Wales

Southern Damselfly and White-faced Darter are the two species of conservation concern in England and Wales and we have continued to work with those carrying out surveys and local conservation work for Southern Damselfly. This includes a partnership with organisations managing reserves with Southern Damselfly populations in Dorset to work together to preserve the populations in the Purbeck area and discussions with volunteers monitoring populations in Hampshire. The re-introduction project for White-faced Darter at Drumburgh Moss in Cumbria, which we are supporting has progressed well with over 600 exuviae counted at the site and breeding noted at pools where eggs/larvae were not introduced as part of the project. White-faced Darter continue to be seen in Delamere Forest following the re-introduction there, but in small numbers and it is not yet clear if the population is sustainable. There has been interest in further introduction projects on the Manchester Mosses and in Yorkshire and we have been in consultation regarding these, but there are no agreed projects as yet.

The results of the White-legged Damselfly Investigation have now been written up and published [Read the White-legged Damselfly Investigation final report - British Dragonfly Society \(british-dragonflies.org.uk\)](https://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk). The overall conclusion is that while there have been losses in some areas, there have also be gains and overall the population seems stable. The report does suggest further research is needed to determine why it has been lost from some sites to ensure that there are no underlying threats to the species. We are supporting the Stepping Stones Project in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is aimed at improving ecological connectivity for a wide range of wildlife including two species of dragonfly that are declining in England and Wales, Common Hawker and Emerald Damselfly.

We continue to monitor the species which are in the process of colonising the country as noted under “recording.”

We have continued to run events at our established Dragonfly Hotspots as well as launch events at the two new Dragonfly Hotspots as a key means of engaging with people. Volunteers have led walks and talks at these sites as well as a range of other sites around the country.

Interactions through social media have grown and are an important part of outreach activity. Followers and members on the various sites have continued to increase and the British Dragonflies and Damselflies Facebook page, administered by one of our Dragonfly County Recorders, is a valuable resource to provide identification help. Our monthly electronic Newsletter, Hawker, continues to get positive feedback with circulation having risen to 3207.

Particular points of note were:

- PondWatch (17th-18th June 2023), an online campaign to celebrate ponds for dragonflies. We received excellent engagement for the content shared across social media, including information on pond creation and maintenance, and the species you might find. As well as

inviting people to share pictures of their pond. We shared five pond stories on our Pond Ponderings Blog. We also collaborated with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's (BSBI) #WildflowerHour campaign, in which we used #PondPlants as the botanical challenge for the week and worked with the BSBI team to answer pond plant questions via social media

- A Dragonfly Hotspot was officially launched at Panshanger Park in Hertfordshire on 7th July 2023 at which the interpretation board and a dragonfly trail created by the site owners, Tarmac were unveiled. A public event followed on 28th July with guided walks for visitors. A good selection of dragonflies was seen including Norfolk Hawker on the 7th July and newly emerged Willow Emeralds during the public event.
- A second new Dragonfly Hotspot was launched at the Wildlife and Wetland Trust's London Wetland Centre on 9th July 2023 with guided walks for a good number of visitors despite a few showers. A good selection of dragonflies was seen including Lesser Emperor and Norfolk Hawker.
- A first draft of a review of the Red List for Dragonflies was produced by our Conservation Officer with input from the Dragonfly Conservation Group members. Work has started on the final report following comments from Natural England on the draft.
- BDS has raised concerns about damage to ponds through dogs entering them and causing pollution when external flea treatment is washed off into the water. A document, 'BDS Guidance for Responsible Dog Ownership' has been prepared and publicised via social media to try to publicise the issue while recognising the value of dog ownership for many people.
- BDS has continued to provide small awards to support student and amateur research projects. A project investigating the effects of water-levels on Odonata larvae in shallow bog-pools was completed and reported on in the current year.

5. Recording and Monitoring

Increasing our knowledge of our dragonflies remains a prime objective of the Society and recording is a key contributor to this. The data coming from general recording has allowed us to identify issues which would benefit from more study, and we have set up specific projects to address issues that have been identified from the pattern of records. Our dataset of dragonfly records is used by academic bodies and other organisations for research purposes and to inform planning decisions.

Research use of our records included:

- A study of Species Distribution Models. The study used records from a number of insect recording schemes and published in April 2023 at [Causal inference and large-scale expert validation shed light on the drivers of SDM accuracy and variance - Boyd - 2023 - Diversity and Distributions - Wiley Online Library](#).
- A contribution to the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology DRUID study which is looking at the drivers and consequences of declines in insect populations.
- We provided information on dragonfly records to two students, one undertaking a PhD looking at Biodiversity in the North Pennines and Yorkshire Dales and the other doing an MSc Project on White-faced Darter.

Other points of note were:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- **Northern Damselfly:** A survey of the new ponds created during the project for Cairngorm National Park was carried out and Northern Damselflies were found at six of the 11 new ponds which was a very positive outcome only 18 months after the ponds were created. A number of the ponds were also attracting a range of dragonfly species and other aquatic wildlife with 10 species of odonata observed at one, of which six were showing breeding behaviour. Habitat had been improved at other ponds as part of the project and the survey generally concluded that this had been beneficial for Northern Damselflies, although there were some useful lessons to learn for any future similar projects.
- **New colonists:** Recording allows us to keep track of changes in distribution of dragonfly species which seem to be in the process of colonising the country or changing their distribution.
 - **Willow Emerald:** There were good numbers reported from its current range but little expansion in 2023 compared with the surge seen in 2022. It may be approaching the limit of suitable conditions or possibly consolidating its position prior to another surge.
 - **Southern Migrant Hawker:** In contrast to a poor year in 2022, Southern Migrant Hawker was reported in good numbers from established sites in 2023, with some apparent local expansions. However, there was a lack of records from sites where breeding had been suspected previously and the reason for this is unknown. There were some indications of fresh immigration of individuals from the continent, which may account for some of the records from new sites.
 - **Lesser Emperor:** There were reports from over 100 sites, including at least two in Scotland. Immatures and breeding behaviour was observed at a number of sites and it is thought that records are coming from a mix of individuals dispersing from UK breeding sites and new immigrants from the continent.
 - **Vagrant Emperor:** There was a large spring influx and breeding was confirmed in Britain for the first time at a site in Cornwall. There was also a significant autumn influx of the species. It is known that Vagrant Emperors emerge and disperse overnight so that recording breeding is not easy and depends on spotting exuviae, generally without any prior indication of the species presence. This makes it very difficult to assess the true position.
 - **Red-veined Darter:** Emergence was noted in the autumn at a number of widely distributed sites in southern England. This is a highly migratory species and the newly emerged dragonflies rapidly migrate south. We do not have a permanent population and the species presence is dependent on a new influx of adults each spring. This now occurs each year with varying numbers, but the general trend is for increasing numbers.
 - **Dainty Damselfly:** Numbers were stable at its two newly established sites in Kent.
 - **Southern Emerald Damselfly:** There were some individuals reported, but there is no sign of any significant expansion in records of this species or that it is yet firmly established in the country.
 - **Norfolk Hawker:** This species is not a new colonist, but has seen a rapid range expansion after a long period when it was restricted to Norfolk Broads and Suffolk and it is now occurring and breeding at widely spread locations. While some of the expansion may have come from dispersal from the population in the east,

immigration from the continent has been a significant driver and probably accounts for at least some of the records away from East Anglia.

6. Our Work in Scotland

Scotland is important in terms of dragonfly conservation. A number of species in the British Isles occur only in Scotland. A number of species with a more southerly range are now starting to establish themselves in Scotland with continued expansion noted in 2023 for species such as Emperor Dragonfly. The rate of change in distribution is rapid in evolutionary terms and hence there is considerable interest in studying what happens in order to inform conservation efforts. One of the species that is expanding in Scotland is Azure Damselfly and this species is now being found alongside Northern Damselfly at some sites. There is some concern that they may compete to the detriment of Northern Damselfly.

There is a much lower density of dragonfly recorders in Scotland, particularly in the areas which hold the key species of interest and hence our knowledge of the status and requirements of these species tends to be much lower than for those that occur in areas with much denser human populations and hence more recorders, such as the southeast of England. This means that recording and monitoring by volunteers provides a less comprehensive picture of the situation and we are addressing this by commissioning some survey work.

The final report on the Northern Damselfly Pond Creation project for Cairngorm National Park Authority has been completed. The survey of the ponds created and improved as part of this project has been noted above, but alongside this work, the possible locations of further new ponds to try to provide linkage corridors between existing clusters of breeding ponds have been identified with the aim of creating these links if further funding becomes available.

The BDS Scotland Conservation Officer and BDS Scottish Recorder assisted with the excavation of new ponds by the Corrou Estate at the start of the year. These ponds were designed to be of varying depth to provide deeper areas that Azure Hawker larvae could retreat to during drought conditions, which are occurring more frequently in Scotland. A survey later in the year revealed larvae in these ponds of a size which suggest that they were several years old. (Azure Hawker larvae take up to five years to develop before emergence). They seemed too large to have developed from eggs or larvae which might have been transferred to them on sphagnum moss at the time of construction. This together with other observations raises the interesting possibility that the larvae may be able to travel across the bog to find a new pond if their birth pond starts to dry out. This has not been confirmed and it would still require the existence of deeper ponds in their breeding areas as refuges for them to survive drought conditions.

A bid for funding to create new ponds for Azure Hawker and other species of interest including Northern Emerald and White-faced Darter across a wider area of bogs was unsuccessful, but late in the year we received notification that some funding might be available and a further proposal has been submitted. The discussions around the original bid had raised interest with some key estates and it is likely that they will carry out some work that will be of benefit even if the full project is unable to proceed at this time.

Highlights in the year include:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- New pools for Azure Hawker were created by Corrou Estate at the start of the year and contained large larvae by the end of the year.
- BDS Staff and Volunteers have worked with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) to provide training on dragonflies and advice aimed at improving habitat for dragonflies within the FLS estate which includes areas which are important for key dragonfly species
- We have continued to review and update BDS policies as part of the Volunteer Project as well as actively seeking volunteers and discussing opportunities with them. Our Project Officer has organised and led a number of volunteering events in the course of the year.

7. Partnerships

We believe that working with other organisations benefits both dragonfly conservation and conservation more generally.

Dragonfly Hotspot Partners: We launched two new Dragonfly Hotspots at Panshanger Park in Hertfordshire and the WWT's London Wetland Centre this year and continued to work with our existing Dragonfly Hotspot Partners.

Scottish Partners: We continued to have good working relations with other conservation organisations in Scotland and these have grown closer in relation to reserves and areas which provide habitat for Northern Damselfly and Azure Hawker. We have carried out training and provided advice on habitat management to Forestry and Land Scotland as part of our partnership agreement. NatureScot (previously known as Scottish Natural Heritage) has continued to contribute to the cost of our conservation work in Scotland. We have continued to build on our relationship with Corrou estate which has led to the excavation of new pools to benefit Azure Hawker that will provide valuable information on how best to improve habitat for this species. We are also building links with other large estates and discussing management work to improve moorland habitat, particularly for Azure Hawker.

British Trust for Ornithology: Dragonfly records submitted to the BTO's Birdtrack and Garden Birdwatch schemes are an important contribution to our knowledge and identification articles in BTO publications help to spread knowledge. We continue to use BTO Mapping Software to allow volunteers to select areas to survey for our projects.

Butterfly Conservation: We receive dragonfly records that are submitted to the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

8. A Look Ahead

Our overall aims remain the same but a number of initiatives are underway to deliver these. A small group of Trustees and staff is considering our membership strategy with a view to increasing numbers and encouraging a higher level of participation. We are in the process of setting up a Youth Panel and this will be encouraged to consider its role and how it can contribute to the overall objectives of the Society. We will continue to work to monitor and conserve our dragonflies and their habitats and develop projects to make a practical difference and seek funding to implement these.

Points of note are:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- **Dragonfly Hotspot Launches:** Three new Dragonfly Hotspots will be launched in 2024. The first will be at Wicken Fen on 30th June. Newport Wetlands/Magor Marsh over the weekend of 6/7th July will follow with RSPB Conwy on 13th July.
- **Public Engagement:** We will attend a number of varied events to engage with the public. These will include the Gardener's World Spring Fair, the Glastonbury Music Festival and the Global Bird Fair.
- **Strategy:** We will be continuing with the development and implementation of our plans and will continue to encourage feedback from members as these are implemented.
- **Conservation:** We will continue to monitor changes in dragonfly populations and intend to develop a project to improve habitat for Southern Damselflies and seek funding for this.
- **Scotland:** There is the possibility of funding to create new ponds and improve habitats for both Northern Damselfly and Azure Hawker. We will continue to develop our proposals and seek other funding for this work if the current opportunities do not come to fruition.
- **Supporting members and volunteers:** We will further develop our membership offering and extend the range of volunteering opportunities for members together with appropriate means of supporting this.

9. Legal and Administrative requirements

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission in July 2016. As at 1st September 2016 it took over the assets and liabilities of the previous unincorporated charity of the same name.

The Society's governing document is the CIO Constitution agreed by the Charity Commission in July 2016.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees are elected by the membership at the Society's AGM. One-third of the Trustees retire by rotation on an annual basis. Trustees may serve a maximum of 9 years.

The Society seeks new Trustees from its membership and from other interested parties. The new CIO allows greater numbers than the former unincorporated charity and the Society is seeking to recruit new Trustees with appropriate skills.

Potential Trustees are invited to observe a Trustee Meeting before appointment. Their induction includes an information pack on the Society's status and legal position as well as discussions with the Officers and relevant staff.

Organisational structure

The Society is governed by its Trustees who meet formally four times a year. The Society has 6 staff, a full-time Conservation Officer based in Shropshire, two Scottish Officers based at home near Perth, one part-time and the other full time, a Membership and Operations Officer, home based in

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Staffordshire, who also took over as Shop Manager in the course of the year and a Development and Operations Manager, home based in East Sussex ,who is line manager for our staff. The Officers of the Society, the Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary carry out activities linked to their roles. The Convenor of the Dragonfly Conservation Group also has responsibility for delivering policies and projects of the Society through the Society's volunteer networks.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls and actions are in place to manage these risks. The Society considers that the main risks to which it is exposed are future income streams which it manages through a multi-year Budget and regular reporting.

Financial position

Gross income for the year was £394,433 (2023 - £164,646). This income, together with legacy income received in previous years has enabled the Trustees to invest in the future of the charity. The Trustees believe this, and prior year investments will provide a good return for the Society through increased activity, greater awareness and increased future income.

Expenditure for the year was £184,284 (2023 - £167,872), reflecting the continuing of the investment described above.

Reserves policy

The policy of the charity is to hold sufficient funds to allow for the maintenance of existing activities, to cover any significant shortfall in income and to allow for future investment.

With the Expendable Endowment described above, the Trustees have considerable reserves which will be invested over the next three years. The value of Unrestricted funds and the Expendable Endowment at the year-end was £451,901 (2023 - £247,276). The Trustees had planned to reduce reserves to between 12 to 15 months of total expenditure over the next three financial years. However, the large legacies received in the current year mean that it is likely to take longer to reduce the figure. The Trustees have increased the target level of reserves that it is prudent to hold from that previously agreed. Legacies have become a significant source of funding in recent times but by their nature they can be quite large amounts and occur erratically (as we have seen this year) and relying on them for budget purposes could place the Society at risk. The planned higher level of reserves would allow Trustees to manage the continuing operation of the Society without the need for emergency measures which would be highly disruptive.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf by:

Mr B J Walker - Hon Treasurer

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of British Dragonfly Society (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). You are satisfied that your charity is not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 44 (1) (c) of the 2005 Act and section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity has prepared its accounts on an accruals basis and is also registered in Scotland your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Regulation 11(2) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Frances Wilde FCCA DChA

Warner Wilde
Chartered Certified Accountants
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated:

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total	Total
	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	343,703	31,504	-	375,207	155,580
Charitable activities	4	7,068	-	-	7,068	5,336
Investments	5	12,158	-	-	12,158	3,730
Total income		<u>362,929</u>	<u>31,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,433</u>	<u>164,646</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	3,902	-	-	3,902	22,814
Charitable activities	7	117,323	46,723	16,336	180,382	145,058
Total expenditure		<u>121,225</u>	<u>46,723</u>	<u>16,336</u>	<u>184,284</u>	<u>167,872</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		241,704	(15,219)	(16,336)	210,149	(3,226)
Transfers between funds		(20,743)	20,743	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		220,961	5,524	(16,336)	210,149	(3,226)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		185,056	16,206	62,220	263,482	266,708
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u>406,017</u>	<u>21,730</u>	<u>45,884</u>	<u>473,631</u>	<u>263,482</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	97,993	57,587	-	155,580
Charitable activities	4	5,336	-	-	5,336
Investments	5	3,730	-	-	3,730
Total income		<u>107,059</u>	<u>57,587</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,646</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	10,033	-	12,781	22,814
Charitable activities	7	88,115	56,943	-	145,058
Total expenditure		<u>98,148</u>	<u>56,943</u>	<u>12,781</u>	<u>167,872</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		8,911	644	(12,781)	(3,226)
Transfers between funds		(11,562)	11,562	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(2,651)</u>	<u>12,206</u>	<u>(12,781)</u>	<u>(3,226)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		<u>187,707</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>75,001</u>	<u>266,708</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		<u>185,056</u>	<u>16,206</u>	<u>62,220</u>	<u>263,482</u>

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Stocks	13	3,185		3,118	
Debtors	14	16,976		13,870	
Investments	15	312,000		212,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		144,156		41,644	
		<u>476,317</u>		<u>270,632</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,686)		(7,150)	
Net current assets			<u>473,631</u>		<u>263,482</u>
The funds of the charity					
Endowment funds	18		45,884		62,220
Restricted income funds	19		21,730		16,206
Unrestricted funds	20		406,017		185,056
			<u>473,631</u>		<u>263,482</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on

.....
Mr B Walker
Trustee

.....
Ms C A Cooksey
Trustee

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

British Dragonfly Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	105,299	5,435	110,734	18,173	3,380	21,553
Legacies	169,991	-	169,991	10,000	-	10,000
Grants	34,925	26,069	60,994	25,750	54,207	79,957
Membership fees	33,488	-	33,488	43,070	-	43,070
Donated goods and services	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
	343,703	31,504	375,207	97,993	57,587	155,580
	343,703	31,504	375,207	97,993	57,587	155,580
Grants						
Impact	-	12,961	12,961	-	16,812	16,812
Natural England	4,935	-	4,935	-	-	-
NatureScot	-	3,108	3,108	-	5,883	5,883
John Ellerman Foundation	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	-	25,000
Groundwork UK	-	-	-	750	-	750
Forest and Land Scotland	4,990	-	4,990	-	-	-
Cairngorms National Park	-	10,000	10,000	-	31,512	31,512
	34,925	26,069	60,994	25,750	54,207	79,957
	34,925	26,069	60,994	25,750	54,207	79,957

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Charitable activities		
Sale of goods	7,068	5,336

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	12,158	3,730

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Membership schemes and social lotteries	1,313	-	1,313	2,313	-	2,313
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	1,852	1,852
Staff costs	-	-	-	-	10,929	10,929
	<u>1,313</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,313</u>	<u>2,313</u>	<u>12,781</u>	<u>15,094</u>
Trading costs						
Operating charity shops	2,589	-	2,589	7,720	-	7,720
Total costs	<u>3,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,902</u>	<u>10,033</u>	<u>12,781</u>	<u>22,814</u>

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Charitable activities 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	117,931	79,130
Direct project costs	11,046	25,580
Recording costs	7,822	8,594
Storage costs	2,103	1,308
Publications	11,115	12,307
Exhibitions and Fairs	9,625	3,940
Staff expenses	13,103	7,038
Volunteer expenses	503	570
Central office costs	1,000	100
	<u>174,248</u>	<u>138,567</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	225	-
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	3,659	4,542
Governance	2,250	1,949
	<u>180,382</u>	<u>145,058</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	117,323	88,115
Restricted funds	46,723	56,943
Endowment funds	16,336	-
	<u>180,382</u>	<u>145,058</u>

8 Grants payable

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants to individuals	225	-
	<u>225</u>	<u>-</u>

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Insurance	1,755	1,568
Payroll and accounting	614	764
Subscriptions	929	518
Website costs	360	692
	-	1,000
Governance costs	2,251	1,949
	<u>5,909</u>	<u>6,491</u>
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	<u>5,909</u>	<u>6,491</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance costs comprise:		
Independent Examiners fees	1,158	1,164
Bank and Paypal charges	660	785
Trustee costs	433	-
	<u>2,251</u>	<u>1,949</u>

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Employment costs		
	£	£
Wages and salaries	111,233	86,564
Social security costs	2,832	931
Other pension costs	3,866	2,564
	<u>117,931</u>	<u>90,059</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11 Employees (Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	3,185	3,118

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	13,763	10,657
Prepayments and accrued income	3,213	3,213
	<u>16,976</u>	<u>13,870</u>

15 Current asset investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Unlisted investments	312,000	212,000
CCLA - COIF Charities Deposit Fund		

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	1,528	-
Accruals	1,158	7,150
	<u>2,686</u>	<u>7,150</u>

17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	3,866	2,564

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

18 Endowment funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
Expendable endowments			
Expendable Endowment	62,220	(16,336)	45,884
	<u>62,220</u>	<u>(16,336)</u>	<u>45,884</u>
Previous year:			
	At 1 April 2022 £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
Expendable endowments			
Expendable Endowment	75,001	(12,781)	62,220
	<u>75,001</u>	<u>(12,781)</u>	<u>62,220</u>

Expendable Endowment - This fund is legacies received in 2016 and 2017 which the charity cannot be reasonably expect to spend in one financial year. The Trustees have decided to classify this as an expendable endowment and to treat it as investment in staff posts in 2017/18 and subsequent years to grow the work of the Society.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Dragonfly Hotspots	5,730	5,435	(5,096)	-	6,069
NatureScot	-	3,108	(23,851)	20,743	-
Northern Damselfly Survey	6,038	10,000	(4,348)	-	11,690
Impact Funding	4,438	12,961	(13,428)	-	3,971
	<u>16,206</u>	<u>31,504</u>	<u>(46,723)</u>	<u>20,743</u>	<u>21,730</u>

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19 Restricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Dragonfly Hotspots	4,000	3,380	(1,650)	-	5,730
NatureScot	-	5,883	(17,445)	11,562	-
Northern Damselfly Survey	-	31,512	(25,474)	-	6,038
Impact Funding	-	16,812	(12,374)	-	4,438
	<u>4,000</u>	<u>57,587</u>	<u>56,943</u>	<u>11,562</u>	<u>16,206</u>

Dragonfly Hotspots - This represents funding for signage at newly designated Hotspots.

NatureScot (previously Scottish National Heritage) and Northern Damselfly Survey - Funding for surveys relating to the Northern Damselfly and the Azure Hawker and improving their habitats.

Impact - Funding for the volunteering opportunities project.

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	185,056	362,929	(121,225)	(20,743)	406,017
	<u>185,056</u>	<u>362,929</u>	<u>(121,225)</u>	<u>(20,743)</u>	<u>406,017</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	187,707	107,059	(98,148)	(11,562)	185,056
	<u>187,707</u>	<u>107,059</u>	<u>(98,148)</u>	<u>(11,562)</u>	<u>185,056</u>

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:				
Current assets/(liabilities)	406,017	21,730	45,884	473,631
	<u>406,017</u>	<u>21,730</u>	<u>45,884</u>	<u>473,631</u>

BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 March 2023:				
Current assets/(liabilities)	185,056	16,206	62,220	263,482
	<u>185,056</u>	<u>16,206</u>	<u>62,220</u>	<u>263,482</u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).