

# British Dragonfly Society



## **Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements**

for the year ended **31 March 2023**

Registered Charity No 1168300 (England and Wales)

SC049416 (Scotland)

# British Dragonfly Society

Registered Charity No 1168300 (England and Wales), SC049416 (Scotland)

## 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 2023

Mr Brian Walker, Chair (to 4 February 2023) and Treasurer

Mr Tim Coleshaw, Vice Chair, Chair from 5 February 2023.

Ms Carolyn Cooksey, Hon. Secretary

Dr Pam Taylor, Convenor of Dragonfly Conservation Group

Mr Peter Brown

Ms Bailey Tate (from 20 November 2022)

Professor Mike Lehane (from 20 November 2022)

Ms Carmel Edwards (from 20 November 2022)

Mr Josh Younespour (from 20 November 2022)

### Staff

Miss Eleanor Colver, Conservation Officer

Ms Daniele Muir, Scottish Officer (Conservation)

Ms Andrea Hudspeth, Scottish Officer (Projects)

Mrs Sarah Miller, Fundraiser

Miss Fiona McKenna, Conservation Outreach Officer (to 4 May 2022)

Miss Lauren Kennedy, Conservation Outreach Officer (from 1 August 2022)

Miss Jessica Slight, Administration Officer (from 30 January 2023)

### 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 2023

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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 Covid 19 pandemic had limited impact on activities this year and we were able to run a programme of field events and held successful launch events at two new Dragonfly Hotspots at Llangorse Lake and Steart Marshes. Our Annual Meeting including our AGM and our Spring Meeting were again held on-line with a good level of attendance. The decision was taken to hold the Annual

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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Meeting on-line at a time when there was still some uncertainty about what restrictions there might be and the Annual Meeting will revert to a physical meeting in 2023. However, the Spring meeting was held on-line in order to allow the widest participation both in terms of speakers and audience and the intention is that our Spring Meeting will continue to be on-line. We had a stand at the inaugural Global Birdfair event and welcomed a large number of visitors.

We saw a small decrease in membership in 2022 after the sharp rise during the pandemic and this may be a result of people returning to a pre-pandemic pattern of activities with less focus on garden ponds and local areas. However, we have continued to see a growth in dragonfly records being submitted and interactions on social media continue at a high level.

As noted in last year's report, three Trustees resigned in the course of 2021 leaving the Trustee Board at a lower level of membership than ideal. As a result of advertising through relevant websites, a number of volunteers came forward and after discussions, four new Trustees with complementary skills were proposed as Trustees at the AGM and were elected to the Board. Towards the end of the year Brian Walker stepped down as Chair of Trustees and Tim Coleshaw took over the role. Brian Walker remains as a Trustee and Treasurer.

Following the finalisation of our strategy, action plans have been drawn up and are being implemented progressively. We have recruited an Operations Officer, Jessica Slight, who has taken over the Membership Officer role from Lynn Curry and we have set up a new Customer Relationship Management System to manage membership records in a more efficient way. Jessica has also taken over a number of other administrative functions from both volunteers and staff, which will free staff time for conservation and engagement activities and allow better coordination.

Action plans have been put in place to implement our strategy for the next five years ([Strategy 2022-2026 - British Dragonfly Society \(british-dragonflies.org.uk\)](#)) and initial work on this implementation is underway.

The final work on the major habitat restoration and creation project for Northern Damselfly in Scotland was completed and it was encouraging to learn of other pond creation and management work by land owners in the relevant areas, which is also likely to benefit the species. Only limited monitoring at the ponds was carried out in the current year, although some records were received of the presence of the species at some of the ponds where work was carried out.

### 3. Funding Successes

Funding of £25k/year from the John Ellerman Foundation has continued as has funding from Impact Scotland for a project developing volunteer opportunities in Scotland. We have continued to receive a grant from NatureScot to support our work in Scotland. Further donations from members towards funding interpretation boards for Dragonfly Hotspots have been received and funded the boards at Llangorse Lakes and Steart Marshes with some funding towards the new Dragonfly Hotspots that will be launched in 2023 and improvements at existing Dragonfly Hotspots.

### 4. Conservation and Outreach in England and Wales

Southern Damselfly and White-faced Darter provide a focus for conservation work in England and Wales. In the case of Southern Damselfly we continue to support surveys and habitat improvement work and for White-faced Darter we have continued to support re-introduction projects in the

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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northwest of England. 2022 was the final year of our White-legged Damselfly Investigation to establish the current status of the species after reports of losses from a number of sites. The results indicate that while the species has reduced at some sites, there have been gains in other areas and it now occurs more frequently at still waters, having previously been largely restricted to flowing water. Overall there seem to have been no major changes in the species status.

We continue to monitor the range expansion of colonising species with Willow Emerald producing many records from new areas in 2022, suggesting a major expansion of its range to the north and west. Having only started its colonisation in 2007, it has now been seen as far north as Gosforth in the northeast, Burnley in the northwest, Worcester in the west and Christchurch in the southwest. Southern Migrant Hawker was reported from most of its recently established sites, but numbers were generally lower than recent years, which may have been due to the hot weather which caused some shallower water bodies, favoured by the species, to dry out. Southern Emerald Damselfly which seemed to have gained a small foothold in the country did not do well in 2022. Habitats drying out may have been partially responsible, but one of a limited number of sites that was part of the early colonisation event was lost through changes to the site, when it might otherwise have provided a reservoir for further dispersion.

Dragonfly Hotspots remain our principal focus to engage with the public through events and information, although volunteers also led dragonfly walks at other sites around the country to engage with the public. As well as the launch events at the new Dragonfly Hotspots, events were held at the longer established Dragonfly Hotspots and support was provided at some of these. We collaborated with a successful £2.1M bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund by Stover Park, one of our Dragonfly Hotspots, to restore habitat in the Park. The work will be of significant benefit for the dragonfly population in the park and the Society will contribute through advice and training of the volunteers.

Interactions through social media continue to form an important part of our outreach activity. There were almost 3,000 interactions via various platforms during our annual PondWatch event which included presentation of a short film "Pete the Pond" and a photo competition as well as tips on ponds and activities for kids. Followers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have increased to a modest extent and we set up a LinkedIn page later in the year. Views of all videos posted on our YouTube Channel, which includes talks from on-line meetings, now total more than 2,000. Our monthly electronic Newsletter, Hawker, continues to be well received and circulation increased further in the year to 3,126.

#### **Particular points of note were:**

- PondWatch weekend was again well received via social media and a special streaming of 'Pete the Pond' was arranged during the event. This was the third successive year for the initiative.
- Dragonfly Hotspots were launched at Llangorse Lake in Breconshire on a very warm day and at Steart Marshes in Somerset a week later in rather duller weather. Both events were well attended and dragonflies were seen and enjoyed by visitors during the guided tours, along with other wildlife of interest. There were fewer dragonflies than hoped for, possibly because the very hot summer had brought the flight period forward and the season was tailing off by the time of the events.

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- The Dragonfly Conservation Group reviewed the Priority Site Assessment methodology to make it more streamlined and to reflect the current state of dragonflies in Britain. The Priority Site Assessment allows the BDS to identify the most important sites for dragonflies in the UK and, thus, target them for conservation action.
- BDS acted as a consultant and stakeholder contributing to the 7<sup>th</sup> quinquennial review of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 regarding the Odonata legally protected under Schedule 5 of the Act. The Society supported the addition of Northern Damselfly to Schedule 5.
- BDS have been contracted by Natural England to provide input to the Red List review for Dragonflies and this work is underway with the Dragonfly Conservation Group providing advice to our Conservation Officer who is coordinating the work.

## 5. Recording and Monitoring

Increasing our knowledge of our dragonflies remains a prime objective 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 specific study, and we have set up specific projects to address these issues. Our dataset of dragonfly records is used by academic bodies and other organisations for research purposes and to inform planning decisions.

Points of note were:

- **White-legged Damselfly Investigation:** 2022 was the final year of the project and a final report is in preparation. While there have been some losses there have also been some gains in terms of sites occupied and overall the species population appears to be reasonably stable. Details are at <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/recording/white-legged-damselfly-investigation/> and the final report will appear here when finished.
- **Northern Damselfly Survey:** Although systematic monitoring of sites, which was the aim of this project, has not been achieved to the extent that was hoped, the increased focus on the species has maintained the much higher level of recording seen in recent years. The species was reported from 12 new 1km squares in 2022, all adjacent to previously reported squares. The species was reported again from the new site near Tain where it was found in 2021 and which is away from establish areas. There were a few reports from new SUDS ponds which is a hopeful sign. <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/recording/northern-damselfly-survey/>
- **New colonists:** We continue to track dragonfly species which are colonising the country, particularly Willow Emerald Damselfly, where records were received from a good number of new sites in 2022, indicating a further surge in the expansion of its range as well as consolidation in areas already occupied. There are other migrants which are now in the process of establishing themselves as residents, such as Southern Migrant Hawker and Southern Emerald Damselfly. Southern Migrant Hawker showed little change during 2022 and Southern Emerald Damselfly produced fewer records than recent years, with none from well visited sites where it had previously been recorded. The hot summer which caused some sites to dry out may have had an impact on both species which prefer shallow water habitat which is at greater risk of drying out. The new colony of Dainty Damselfly at Sandwich Bay which was discovered in 2020 continued to thrive in 2022. The species was also discovered at another site in the southeast of England.
- **MSc Project:** A student at the University of Stirling looked at the habitat preferences of Northern Emerald, found only in Scotland in the UK, making use of advice and data from

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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BDS. They confirmed that the preferred habitat is sphagnum filled bog pools in association with coniferous woodland. They also showed a preference for particular species of sphagnum moss, something that was not previously appreciated.

- **Academic Research:** Researchers from the University of Exeter and Biological Records Centre used the BDS data set to study how the spread of Small Red-eyed Damselfly into the UK has affected other odonata species. They concluded that its spread poses minimal risk to other species and that it seems to be establishing in areas of high ecological quality with an established diverse population of odonata. [Associations between a range-shifting damselfly \(\*Erythromma viridulum\*\) and the UK's resident Odonata suggest habitat sharing is more important than antagonism - Cranston - 2023 - Insect Conservation and Diversity - Wiley Online Library](#)

## 6. Our Work in Scotland

Scotland is important in terms of dragonfly conservation. A number of species occur only in Scotland within the British Isles and a number of species with a more southerly range are now starting to establish themselves in Scotland with notable expansion in 2022 for species such as Emperor Dragonfly. 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 those that occur in areas with much denser human populations and hence more recorders, such as the southeast of England. With many traditionally southern species now moving north due to climate change, there is greater interaction between them and more northerly species, particularly in Scotland. 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.

Our focus in Scotland has been primarily on Northern Damselfly and Azure Hawker, but we are increasingly devoting effort to Northern Emerald which does not occur in England and White-faced Darter where the bulk of the UK population is in Scotland. A comparatively dry summer in 2022 resulted in many shallow pools in upland bog areas drying out to a greater extent even than in 2021 when this raised concerns. These are pools which are used by Azure Hawker to breed and surveys in 2022 found very few larvae in the remaining pools in areas where large numbers of Azure Hawker larvae had been found in previous years. The remaining pools are deeper and seem to be selected as breeding sites significantly less often by Azure Hawkers. As the larvae of this species require several years to develop in the pools before emergence, pools drying out is a major threat to the species.

We have been working with the estate at Corroun on surveying Azure Hawker and as a result of the concerns about pools drying out we have discussed the construction of new pools with a profile which provides shallow areas for the species to lay eggs but a design which will allow larvae to retreat into areas that retain water if the pool starts to dry out. This is a trial to see if this approach would provide greater resilience in drought conditions. A site survey was carried out during the year and plans agreed for the estate to excavate ponds in 2023. It is worth noting that the White-faced Darter larvae were found in the remaining deeper ponds at this site and thus pond selection by this species would seem to make it more resilient to droughts.

Highlights in the year include:



# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- The collaboration with Corrour estate on Azure Hawker habitat has the potential to provide very valuable information to better understand the needs of the species and help protect the future of the species in Scotland.
- A partnership agreement was signed with Forestry and Land Scotland to work together to improve habitat for dragonflies. The society will assist with advice and training for staff and volunteers. Forestry and Land Scotland manage large tracts of land in Scotland which cover key areas for species of particular interest and concern and the agreement will help in the conservation of these species through improving our knowledge and improved management of their habitats.
- As part of the Volunteer Project we have been reviewing and updating our policies with regard to volunteers with a view to both volunteers and the Society gaining more from the relationship. Our Scottish Officers have been linking with other organisations and organising events for existing and potential volunteers, with a particular emphasis on attracting those with mental health issues. Early feedback has been positive with volunteers taking on more responsibilities and reporting an improvement in their mental well-being as a result of their interest.

## 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 Llangorse Lake (in the Brecon Beacons National Park) and Steart Marshes (a Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve in Somerset) during 2022 and supported events and initiatives at existing Dragonfly Hotspots.

**Scottish Partners:** We continued our partnership work with Scottish Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, and National Trust for Scotland, running training courses for their staff and supporting their recording and surveying activities. Our work with Forestry and Land Scotland has progressed to a partnership agreement. NatureScot (previously known as Scottish Natural Heritage) has continued to contribute to the cost of our conservation work in Scotland, this year providing £4,500. We have also developed a very good relationship with Corrour estate and are working closely with other estates in Scotland.

**Ministry of Justice (MoJ):** Activities have not really resumed since the pandemic.

**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.

## 8. A Look Ahead

Our strategy will continue to be to improve our knowledge of our dragonflies, the changes they are undergoing and their needs in terms of habitat condition as well as promoting dragonflies and their place in conservation through public engagement. We want to attract more people to join the British Dragonfly Society and become active members by recording dragonflies and/or volunteering to assist in the partnership activities that we are developing.

Points of note are:

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- **Dragonfly Hotspot Launches:** We are planning to have launch events for Dragonfly Hotspots at WWT London Wetland Centre at Barnes and Panshanger Park in Hertfordshire in July. We will also be holding events at a number of our existing Dragonfly Hotspots with the details publicised through social media and through our website [Events - British Dragonfly Society \(british-dragonflies.org.uk\)](https://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk) and discussing the creation of further Dragonfly Hotspots with a number of sites. We are keen to develop Dragonfly Hotspots in urban areas to increase the number of people who can access these sites and learn about dragonflies with both of those to be launched in 2023 meeting this aim.
- **Strategy:** We will be developing our detailed plans further and implementing these and will continue to encourage feedback from members as these are implemented.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Milestone:** 2023 marks 40 years of the British Dragonfly Society. Celebrations will be held throughout the year to highlight our achievements. We will aim to launch a photo competition to engage with members, volunteers and the general public. The celebration will culminate in our in-person AGM on November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Conservation:** We will continue to monitor changes in dragonfly populations and seek opportunities to improve habitat for dragonflies.
- **Scotland:** We are developing a proposal for a major "Dragonflies on the Bog" project reflecting concerns about the future of upland bogs and their dragonfly populations in Scotland. A proposal is being prepared and opportunities for funding will be sought.
- **Supporting members and volunteers:** We will develop our newly introduced CRM system to provide a greater level of support to members and volunteers to both better recognise their contribution to the work of the Society and to increase the value of their input.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

# **BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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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 5 staff, a full-time Conservation Officer based at the Natural England offices in Telford, Shropshire, two part-time Scottish Officers based at home near Perth, a part-time Fundraiser based at home in East Sussex and a full-time Conservation Outreach Officer based at home in Lincolnshire. The Officers of the Society, the Chairman and Hon Secretary carry out activities linked to their roles as well as supervising the staff. 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 £164,646 (2022 - £162,842). 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 £167,872 (2022 - £146,971), 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 £247,276 (2022 - £262,708). The Trustees plan to reduce this figure to between 12 to 15 months of total expenditure over the next three financial years. 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 but occur erratically and thus relying on them for budget purposes could place the Society at risk. This 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.

**BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 20/23 and signed on their behalf by:

*B. J. Walker*

Mr B J Walker - Hon Treasurer

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of British Dragonfly Society (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### 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: 2 October 2023

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>						
Donations and legacies	3	97,993	57,587	-	155,580	158,619
Charitable activities	4	5,336	-	-	5,336	4,133
Investments	5	3,730	-	-	3,730	90
<b>Total income</b>		<b>107,059</b>	<b>57,587</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>164,646</b>	<b>162,842</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>						
Raising funds	6	10,033	-	12,781	22,814	14,345
Charitable activities	7	88,115	56,943	-	145,058	132,626
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>98,148</b>	<b>56,943</b>	<b>12,781</b>	<b>167,872</b>	<b>146,971</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>8,911</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>(12,781)</b>	<b>(3,226)</b>	<b>15,871</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>8,911</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>(12,781)</b>	<b>(3,226)</b>	<b>15,871</b>
Gross transfers between funds		(11,562)	11,562	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(2,651)</b>	<b>12,206</b>	<b>(12,781)</b>	<b>(3,226)</b>	<b>15,871</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		187,707	4,000	75,001	266,708	250,837
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>185,056</b>	<b>16,206</b>	<b>62,220</b>	<b>263,482</b>	<b>266,708</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	133,116	25,503	-	158,619
Charitable activities	4	4,133	-	-	4,133
Investments	5	90	-	-	90
<b>Total income</b>		<u>137,339</u>	<u>25,503</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,842</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	6,461	-	7,884	14,345
Charitable activities	7	108,927	23,699	-	132,626
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>115,388</u>	<u>23,699</u>	<u>7,884</u>	<u>146,971</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<u>21,951</u>	<u>1,804</u>	<u>(7,884)</u>	<u>15,871</u>
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(2,196)</u>	<u>2,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>19,755</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>(7,884)</u>	<u>15,871</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		<u>167,952</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,885</u>	<u>250,837</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2022</b>		<u><u>187,707</u></u>	<u><u>4,000</u></u>	<u><u>75,001</u></u>	<u><u>266,708</u></u>

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	3,118		4,523	
Debtors	13	13,870		37,675	
Investments	14	212,000		212,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		41,644		19,771	
		<u>270,632</u>		<u>273,969</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(7,150)		(7,261)	
Net current assets			<u>263,482</u>		<u>266,708</u>
<b>Capital funds</b>					
<u>Endowment funds - general</u>					
General endowment funds		62,220		75,001	
		<u>62,220</u>		<u>75,001</u>	
Permanent endowment		-		-	
Expendable endowment		62,220		75,001	
	18		62,220		75,001
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	19		16,206		4,000
Unrestricted funds			185,056		187,707
			<u>263,482</u>		<u>266,708</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2 October 2023

*B. J. Walker*

Mr B Walker  
Trustee

*Ms C A Cooksey*

Ms C A Cooksey  
Trustee



# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 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 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.

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 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.

#### 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.

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 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.

#### 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 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	18,173	3,380	21,553	17,115	4,000	21,115
Legacies receivable	10,000	-	10,000	51,000	-	51,000
Grants Receivable	25,750	54,207	79,957	25,000	21,503	46,503
Membership fees	43,070	-	43,070	40,001	-	40,001
Donated goods and services	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
	<u>97,993</u>	<u>57,587</u>	<u>155,580</u>	<u>133,116</u>	<u>25,503</u>	<u>158,619</u>

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

#### Grants receivable for core activities

Impact	-	16,812	16,812	-	-	-
NatureScot	-	5,883	5,883	-	1,912	1,912
John Ellerman Foundation	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	-	25,000
Groundwork UK	750	-	750	-	-	-
Cairngorms National Park	-	31,512	31,512	-	19,504	19,504
Other	-	-	-	-	87	87
	<u>25,750</u>	<u>54,207</u>	<u>79,957</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>21,503</u>	<u>46,503</u>

### 4 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	<u>5,336</u>	<u>4,133</u>

### 5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>3,730</u>	<u>90</u>

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>						
Membership schemes and social lotteries	2,313	-	2,313	3,081	-	3,081
Other fundraising costs	-	1,852	1,852	-	-	-
Staff costs	-	10,929	10,929	-	7,884	7,884
	<u>2,313</u>	<u>12,781</u>	<u>15,094</u>	<u>3,081</u>	<u>7,884</u>	<u>10,965</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>						
Operating a charity shop	7,720	-	7,720	3,380	-	3,380
	<u>10,033</u>	<u>12,781</u>	<u>22,814</u>	<u>6,461</u>	<u>7,884</u>	<u>14,345</u>

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 7 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	79,130	76,632
Direct Project costs	25,580	23,699
Recording costs	8,594	8,457
Storage costs	1,308	1,053
Publications	12,307	10,810
Exhibitions and Fairs	3,940	1,603
Staff expenses	7,038	3,918
Volunteer expenses	570	644
Central office costs	100	-
	<u>138,567</u>	<u>126,816</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	-	257
Share of support costs (see note 9)	4,542	3,234
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	1,949	2,319
	<u>145,058</u>	<u>132,626</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	88,115	108,927
Restricted funds	56,943	23,699
	<u>145,058</u>	<u>132,626</u>

### 8 Grants payable

	2022
	£
Grants to individuals	257
	<u>257</u>

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	1,568	-	1,568	1,432	-	1,432
Payroll and Accounting	764	-	764	504	-	504
Subscriptions	518	-	518	432	-	432
Website	692	-	692	866	-	866
Office space and storage	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Independent Examiner fees	-	1,164	1,164	-	1,068	1,068
Bank charges	-	785	785	-	1,251	1,251
	<u>4,542</u>	<u>1,949</u>	<u>6,491</u>	<u>3,234</u>	<u>2,319</u>	<u>5,553</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>4,542</u>	<u>1,949</u>	<u>6,491</u>	<u>3,234</u>	<u>2,319</u>	<u>5,553</u>

Governance costs includes Independent Examiner's fees of £1,158 (2022- £1,074)

### 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:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	4	4
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	86,564	80,839
Social security costs	931	1,261
Other pension costs	2,564	2,416
	<u>90,059</u>	<u>84,516</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 2023

<b>12</b>	<b>Stocks</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
			£	£
	Finished goods and goods for resale		3,118	4,523
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>13</b>	<b>Debtors</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		£	£
	Trade debtors		-	13,294
	Other debtors		10,657	24,381
	Prepayments and accrued income		3,213	-
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
			13,870	37,675
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>14</b>	<b>Current asset investments</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
			£	£
	Unlisted investments		212,000	212,000
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	CCLA - COIF Charities Deposit Fund			
<b>15</b>	<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	£	£
	Deferred income	<b>16</b>	-	4,991
	Accruals		7,150	2,270
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
			7,150	7,261
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>16</b>	<b>Deferred income</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
			£	£
	Other deferred income		-	4,991
			<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:



# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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16 Deferred income	(Continued)	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	-	4,991
	=====	=====
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	4,991	-
Released from previous periods	(4,991)	-
Resources deferred in the year	-	4,991
	-----	-----
Deferred income at 31 March 2023	-	4,991
	=====	=====

## 17 Retirement benefit schemes

### Defined contribution schemes

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.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £2,564 (2022 - £2,416).

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18 Endowment funds	Balance at 1 April 2021		Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Balance at 31 March 2023			
	£	£	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations gains and losses	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations gains and losses	£	£
<b>Expendable endowments</b>												
Expendable Endowment	82,885	-	(7,884)	-	-	75,001	-	(12,781)	-	-	62,220	
	<u>82,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,001</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(12,781)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,220</u>	<u></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.

**BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**19 Restricted funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Dragonfly Hotspots	4,000	-	-	4,000	3,380	(1,650)	-	5,730	
NatureScot	1,912	(4,108)	2,196	-	5,883	(17,445)	11,562	-	
Northern Damselfly Survey	19,504	(19,504)	-	-	31,512	(25,474)	-	6,038	
Impact Funding	87	(87)	-	-	16,812	(12,374)	-	4,438	
	<u>25,503</u>	<u>(23,699)</u>	<u>2,196</u>	<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.

# BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Expendable Endowment 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Expendable Endowment 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:								
Current assets/(liabilities)	185,056	16,206	62,220	263,482	187,707	4,000	75,001	266,708
	<u>185,056</u>	<u>16,206</u>	<u>62,220</u>	<u>263,482</u>	<u>187,707</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>75,001</u>	<u>266,708</u>

# **BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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### **21 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).