

## Minutes of the first W.D.A. General Meeting held at Colgate University N.Y. on 13 July 1999

The meeting opened at 1.40 pm by Mike Parr welcoming everyone, stating that the number present had reached the required quorum and declaring the meeting open.

As required by the Constitution, Peter Mill proposed that the President elect took the Chair for the meeting. Seconder -- Mike May. Unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The minute recorders -- Marion Parr and Jenna Morgan were appointed.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Henri Dumont, Gordon Pritchard, Georg Rueppell, Marcell Wasscher, and Ian Endersby.

**2. The agenda** was accepted by all present.

**3. The Constitution** adopted in 1997 needed ratification by the meeting. Proposer -- Philip Corbet, Seconder -- Mike May. Carried unanimously.

**4. Jill Silsby** reported that there had been 33 replying **postal votes** all in favour of changes to the Constitution.

### 5. W.D.A. President's report

We have now completed two years of WDA's existence since its emergence from the exuvia. Our Association came into being at Maribor, Slovenia in July 1997 when it was founded as "Phoenix", after SIO had been declared 'dead' at that meeting. A nucleus of ex-SIO members were the initial foundation of 'Phoenix' which soon after metamorphosed into the Worldwide Dragonfly Association.

The Board of Trustees drew up the Constitution of the WDA and this was adopted on 6 December 1997. With the changes via the Postal Ballot, this is the Constitution we have just ratified.

Our aim from the inception of the WDA has been to ensure that the Association functions fully within the guidelines of the Constitution and Bye-Laws and hence operates in a democratic manner. With your assistance and co-operation we can ensure that the WDA continues to do so for the benefit of all concerned.

From the very beginning of WDA, it was recognized that an Association Journal would be required and we have been fortunate to gain Henri Dumont to lead the production of the International Journal of Odonatology (*Pantala*) as Editor. Three issues have already appeared and whilst early teething problems did occur, these have now been largely solved and our Journal is already an indispensable mine of odonatological information. I particularly want to thank Professor Dumont and the publishers, Backhuys, for the work already accomplished. I urge all of you to consider submitting the results of your work for publication in *Pantala*.

The need to be recognised as a registered charity was also an early concern. Through the work of Jill Silsby this was achieved very soon after WDA became functional.

The original plan in WDA was to have a separate Secretary and Treasurer (respectively Jill Silsby and Vicky McMillan). However, it was realised last year that the very close co-ordination required for these

two positions was difficult to achieve, especially when the Atlantic Ocean separated Jill and Vicky. Thus it was decided to amalgamate the two posts, at least for the time being.

I would like to pay tribute to these two ladies for the colossal amount of work they have performed so ably in the past two years: Jill as Secretary/Treasurer, and Vicky as Treasurer and now as this Congress and Symposium organiser.

Jill Silsby has also been the chief architect of the WDA's newsletter, *Agrion*. This has been enthusiastically received by many members who have commented on its style, content and production. I do encourage you all to send contributions about your own activities in the dragonfly world to Jill. Many thanks to Jill for this fine outstanding effort.

We are also indebted to Rob Arnold in his role as WDA Webmaster, to Wolfgang Schneider as National/Regional Coordinator and for being such an active and stimulating Board member, and to Jean-Guy Pilon as a member of the Board and Chairman of the International Symposia Standing Committee.

We now have some 212 members and the WDA is growing. But we do need more members and so I urge you all to do your best to recruit other odonatists, or to join yourself, if you have not already done so. A larger Association will enable us to function more efficiently, and in particular, be in a position to fund to a much greater extent, research and conservation.

Looking forward to the next two WDA Symposia we have been offered the opportunity to go to northern Sweden by Goran Sahlen in 2001 and John Hawking has indicated we would be welcome to hold the 2003 meeting in Australia. Both of these members will talk about their respective proposed meetings shortly; Goran after this BGM. In each case, these events promise to be really exciting; international odonatological symposia have never yet been held in these countries.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the publication of Philip Corbet's book on the ecology and behaviour of dragonflies. This is a truly monumental work and we are indeed fortunate to be the first generation of dragonfly enthusiasts who will be able to use and enjoy it.

I look forward to the next two years with confidence that the WDA will continue to grow and thrive. The international interest in dragonflies has burgeoned dramatically in the past ten years, with many more publications available, and this will surely continue throughout the millenium.

## **6. Report of the Treasurer**

The accounts were presented as per the attached sheet. Dennis Paulson proposed that these were accepted and this was seconded by Roy Beckemeyer. They were accepted unanimously.

Jill Silsby delivered her Treasurer's report as attached. Jill pointed out that money from U.S. members had still not been paid into the sterling account. The U.S. and German accounts were available for anyone wishing to view them. There was some discussion as to the best method of paying subscriptions. Jill explained that although direct debit and standing orders would seem to be helpful, in practice both systems had their drawbacks and therefore she implored members to pay their subs. as soon as notification was received.

7. Ronald T. Hodges a retired board member of the Midland Bank in the U.K. was proposed by Peter Allen to act as the Independent Examiner of Accounts for the next 2 years. This was seconded by Peter Mill and carried unanimously.

### 8. Report of the Secretary

The Secretary delivered her report as attached. She also made a plea for more lighthearted, field and holiday jottings for *Agrion*. Now that odonatological abstracts were collated by International Dragonfly Fund members she implored people to send them reprints of their own papers and others that they came across.

John Hawking suggested the use of the Web for abstracts to save postage costs but as Wolfgang Schneider pointed out, they would then be available to anyone. Matthius Hartung suggested that they could be on the Web but could only be downloaded on payment and Peter Mill suggested a restricted access page but felt a hard copy should be available for those members without Internet access. Mike May suggested that it might be possible to use email. These suggestions are to be considered further.

### 9. Report of the journal editor

As per attached sheet.

### 10. Report of Webmaster

In his capacity as Webmaster Rob Arnold showed the introductory pages of the WDA website which all were most impressed by. His report follows -

I will confine my remarks to showing how the content of the WDA website meets the requirements as set out in Paragraph 9 of the By-Laws of the Worldwide Dragonfly Society. This paragraph states:

#### 9. INTERNATIONAL NETWORK of ODONATOLOGICAL INFORMATION (I.N.O.I.)

a) WDA aims at promoting the diffusion of odonatological knowledge by all methods of communication. For this reason INOI shall be established, with the aim of becoming the centre of information about WDA and about Odonata on a computerised basis.

b) INOI shall set up a WDA homepage that will include major information about the Association and links to other Odonata homepages;

c) it shall also establish an Odonata Database (ODAT) containing, such items as an odonatological World Checklist and World Bibliography; electronic publications such as journals, newsletters, booklets, etc

d) Other objectives shall be set by the Board of Trustees

By-Law 9 a) has been met by the establishment of INOI; by stating on the web page that the home pages are under the auspices of INOI; and by the web site containing a link to a page that lists the content of Paragraph 9 of the By-Laws and explain what INOI stands for.

By-Law 9 b) has been met by the existence of the WDA home page and by the links it contains to other Odonata homepages, specifically the following:

1999 Congress Home Page (Colgate University, Hamilton, NY)  
2001 Congress Home Page (Gällivare, Sweden)  
Pages giving reports of meetings, minutes of meetings, and publications of interest to odonatologists

By-Law 9 c) has been met by the establishment of an Odonata database (ODAT), and the provision of links on the WDA home pages to the following web pages:

Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies  
Collecting Dragonflies  
DSA Guide to Collecting  
List of World Odonatists  
New World Odonata List, revised edition (5 Aug 98) compiled by Rosser Garrison  
Odonatological Bibliography, compiled by Günter Bechly  
Odonatological Information Network. ODAT is pleased to be linked with OIN  
Odonatological Links from the Ode News Web site, compiled by Jackie Sones  
Worldwide checklist of dragonfly and damselfly species, compiled by Martin Schorr, Martin Lindeboom and Dennis Paulson

Robert M. Arnold, WDA Webmaster, July 13, 1999

## 11. Report of the National/Regional Coordinator (Wolfgang Schneider)

At the start of this conference there are 27 member countries and a total of 205 members. It is in the Constitution that they can organise national groups but there is no directive so that they can organise themselves as they feel appropriate.

It was proposed that countries with more than 4 members should organise themselves to pay their dues as one, to reduce costs. Vicky McMillan currently collates all the dues for USA but is quite willing to hand over to Bill Mauffrey who performs this service for FSIO and offered to do so for WDA.

## 12. Informal Reports from Member Countries

**UK** - Peter Allen submitted the report as attached

**Germany** -- Wolfgang Schneider reported that there was no need for a newsletter as "*Libellennachrichten*" is open to all dragonfly societies.

**Japan** -- Hidenori Ubukata's report

Last year Prof. Asahina resigned the Presidency of the Society of Odonatology, Tokyo, and Professor Shigeo Eda was appointed as the second President. The renewed society now includes the Board of Council, Editorial Board and committees for Conservation of Endangered Species. So many young or not-so-old odonatologists are participating in the management of this Japanese Society.

This is the report of the activities apart from WDA.

Next I would like to make a brief report on the activities of WDA members in Japan.

Since the WDA was founded in 1997, I have made every effort to introduce this new and democratic society to Japanese odonatists and to facilitate the exchange of opinions and ideas for the management of the group of Japanese WDA members.

These are: sending direct mailings, editing and distributing newsletters, opening an internet homepage for Japanese members and holding a regional meeting. Thus 28 Japanese odonatists have subscribed to date.

The discussion for structuring a Japanese WDA members' group is still on the way, and I hope it will reach a good goal.

I thank Mike Parr, Jill Silsby and Wolfgang Schneider for encouragement and co-operation directed to the Japanese WDA member group.

**Netherlands** -- Robert Ketelaar reported that the Dutch Dragonfly Association was set up 3 years ago and has more than 300 members. Robert Ketelaar and KD Dijkstra are editing an atlas which should be published in about 18 months time.

### **13. Report of Chairman of International Symposia Standing Committee**

The attached report was delivered by Jean-Guy Pilon and accepted unanimously by the members present.

### **14. Report of IUCN Odonata Specialist Group**

The IUCN Odonata Specialist Group held its meeting on July 11, 1999. Unfortunately, Norman Moore was unable to come and the meeting was chaired by Jan van Tol. Norman Moore had already expressed the wish to resign as chairman of the group after the meeting, to be succeeded by Jan van Tol.

During the general meeting regional reports were presented and discussed as usual. The meeting was the first since the publication of the dragonfly action plan in 1997, so much discussion was devoted to a follow up. Three special topics had been placed on the agenda by the Chairman, viz.

- i) To what extent does the network of Protected Areas (national parks and nature reserves) cover the main types of biotope in your country?
- ii) To what extent do your country's Protected Areas maintain viable populations of your odonate species -- in particular those listed in IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species and species belonging to monotypic genera confined to your country?
- iii) What conservation activity as regards Odonata currently deserves top priority in your country?

The topics were extensively discussed. Experiences of odonatologists from many parts of the world contributed significantly to our understanding and the formulation of an opinion, but several topics appeared too complicated to be decisively answered during the meeting.

Another proposal by the chair included the preparation of a background document on the Odonata of the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals. We hope to accomplish the preparation of datasheets for all species listed including biology, distribution, status, population dynamics and threats, through contributions from authors from all parts of the world.

**15.** Request that Appointment of a Conservation & Fund Committee be delegated to the Trustees

Proposed by Ronnie Silsby Seconded by Mike May Carried unanimously.

**16.** The present **Board of Trustees**, apart from the new President, were **relieved of their duties** by 100% vote in favour.

**17.** The Chairman announced the results of **elections to the 1999-2001 Board** [ See Constitution Clauses F & G] as follows --

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>President-Elect:</b>     | Philip Corbet   |
| <b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b> | Jill Silsby   |
| <b>Journal Editor:</b>      | Henri Dumont  |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>           | Robert Arnold   |
| <b>Trustees:</b>            | Victoria McMillan<br>Wolfgang Schneider<br>Hidenori Ubukata |

The Chairman made a plea that non-Board members should consider very seriously taking a position on the Board at some future date.

**18.** There was no other business.

**19.** The meeting was closed at 3.30 pm.