

The Riverfly Partnership Structure and Operation

Background

The Riverfly Interest Group (RIG) was set up in February 2003 as a result of concerns among the fly-fishing, entomological and conservation communities regarding apparent declines in the abundance and occurrence of riverflies, and also to respond to the need for riverfly identification resources and an established monitoring protocol for anglers and the public.

The RIG was a great success, facilitating much improved communication about riverfly issues. The work of the RIG culminated in the conference 'Riverflies – A beacon for environmental quality', held on 25 November 2004.

The general feeling among organisations involved with riverflies was that a more formal alliance of parties was needed to tackle the outstanding issues around monitoring, training and conservation. As a result, organisations were asked to submit applications to become formal members of a replacement organisation, the Riverfly Partnership. The last meeting of the RIG was held on the 11 March 2005.

This document is based on responses from attendees at the Riverfly Conference and the resulting discussions at the final RIG meeting. It sets out the basic principles upon which the Riverfly Partnership operates.

Partnership Aims

To further the understanding and conservation of riverfly populations.

This is achieved by:

- providing a forum for raising issues affecting riverflies and developing consensus and collaborative action,
- raising awareness of riverflies, and their importance to aquatic conservation and function, amongst the public and decision makers,
- involving people in monitoring and recording riverflies,
- offering leadership and disseminating expertise in the effective acquisition and interpretation of riverfly monitoring data,
- stimulating scientific research to answer key questions about issues affecting riverflies,
- improving the conservation status of riverfly species by securing healthy and sustainable populations,
- increasing and promoting knowledge about positive management techniques,
- seeking to form and influence debate of current issues.

The Riverfly Partnership brings together anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant authorities to increase our knowledge, expertise and understanding of riverfly populations. As well as increasing the availability of this information the Partnership will address any declines in riverfly populations, including declines in overall abundance and threats to individual species.

Geographical scope

The Partnership focuses primarily on work in the UK, although involvement at international levels will be considered when appropriate.

Taxonomic scope

The Partnership focuses on mayflies (Ephemeroptera), caddisflies (Trichoptera) and stoneflies (Plecoptera) (a total of 278 species) in whatever habitats they occur.

Structure of the Riverfly Partnership

Chairman

The Chairman of the Riverfly Partnership is responsible for:

- determining and maintaining the Partnership's mission
- maintaining constructive relationships between members
- chairing Steering Group meetings
- ensuring the representation of the Partnership where appropriate
- confirming minutes

The appointment and continuation in post of the Chairman is at the discretion of the Steering Group. A new Chairman will be appointed every two years.

Secretary

The Secretary of the Riverfly Partnership is responsible for:

- undertaking the day-to-day tasks of the Partnership
- facilitating the direction set by the Partnership
- taking minutes at Steering Group meetings
- maintaining records of the Partnership's work
- circulating minutes and other papers to members

The appointment and continuation in post of the Secretary is at the discretion of the Steering Group.

Membership

Organisations are the basic unit of the partnership and representatives will be assumed to be speaking on behalf of their nominating organisation/s unless it is made clear this is not the case. While individuals are not encouraged to join the Partnership, they are not precluded and may be accepted if able to make a significant contribution to the work of the partnership.

Membership of the Riverfly Partnership is not fixed. New members can apply to join the Partnership. The Steering Group will consider the application bearing in mind the Aims set out above and will inform the applicant as to the success or failure of the application.

Existing members can leave the Riverfly Partnership through written notification to the Steering Group.

Membership is at the discretion of the Steering Group and the Riverfly Partnership reserves the right to terminate any membership.

Members who may have a commercial interest in an agenda item must declare their interest.

Steering Group and Sub-Groups

The **Steering Group** oversees the functioning of the Partnership. To ensure meetings do not become unwieldy the number attending the Steering Group Meetings aims to be kept below 12. The Steering Group meet biannually, in the spring and autumn, with minutes made available to all members of the Partnership.

Additional **Sub-Groups** are set up when necessary to take forward specific topics or issues. The establishment and maintenance of Sub-Groups is at the discretion of the Steering Group. Sub-Groups are responsible for their own administration and report to the Steering Group from which authority can be delegated.

It is essential that meetings be attended by those organisations whose functions are central to delivering the objectives of the Partnership or Sub-Group, or whose energy is key to the dynamics of the group. This engenders a requirement for a list of member organisations that will be part of a group. Members not on the Steering Group can take part in Sub-Groups. Organisations that are not formally on a Group can request to attend or be invited to attend as appropriate. While the membership of the Steering Group or Sub-Groups will change as and when necessary, it is the intention that the full membership is asked to approve the membership of each group at least once every two years at an open meeting or conference.

4/11/05

Meeting of the full membership

At least every two years a meeting or conference will be held for the full membership. Within this event the Steering Group will report back on progress and members can put forward proposals, and ratify, or propose changes to, the membership of the Steering Group or Sub-Groups.

Feedback from the 2004 conference 'Riverflies – A beacon for environmental quality' was resoundingly positive and 97% of those filling in feedback forms indicated that they would be interested to attend future riverfly conferences.

Riverfly Partnership website

Members will be advised of the web address in due course, the website is in development.

Funding

The Partnership is not a financial entity and there is currently no membership fee. With the approval of the Steering Group the Riverfly Partnership may be used as a focus for funding applications, although the financial and legal responsibilities for any undertakings would rest with the member organisations involved. Partnership initiatives, such as the conference, should be clearly held under the umbrella of the Riverfly Partnership, however, the funding and financial management of such initiatives will be undertaken by Partnership member organisations, and branding may reflect this.