

# Chapter 11



1946 – 1950



## The Council for 1946

President	L.H.C. Birkbeck
Vice President	T. Callan
Vice President	F.J. Ingham
Treasurer	H. Kershaw
Hon Secretary	J. Sutcliffe
Lune, Fishing Secretary	H. Wilson
Ribble, Fishing Secretary	Wilfred Barnes
Librarian and Literary Secretary	H. Kershaw

## Annual Dinner 1946

There had been no mention of Annual Dinners after 1938 and through the war. At the February 1946 Council Meeting it was decided to resume holding the event so a Dinner and Social Evening was held at the Manchester Reform Club at 81 King Street.

“The fifty-five members, wives and guests were received by the President, Mr J.C. Sutcliffe, and Mrs Sutcliffe from 7pm to 7.30pm, at which time dinner was served.

After the Loyal Toast proposed by the President, Mr H. Burgess, in a very charming and witty speech, proposed the health of the Association, The President and “Mrs President”. Mr Sutcliffe responded and the Company retired for a short break.

The resumption of the evenings activities consisted of about an hour of films on fishing. Whilst many of the scenes depicted were of commercial salmon fishing, some very fine pictures of South African streams and rock fishing off Cape Hermanus were shown.

After a very enjoyable evening the gathering broke up at 10.30pm.”

This was the last time that a regular Annual Dinner seems to have been held. It became the custom that the A.G.Ms, usually attended at The Grand Hotel, would be preceded by a meal, followed by a short Council Meeting.



## The Sixty Seventh Annual General Meeting 1946



The A.G.M. was held on Friday March 8th 1946 at The Grand Hotel, Manchester following a Luncheon at 1.p.m. In his speech, Mr Sutcliffe as retiring President outlined the eventful year of his Presidency. He mentioned the cessation of hostilities in two theatres of war and how his fears for the future of the Association in the dark days of 1940 had been unfounded because of the unfailing loyalty of the members and the untiring efforts of the Council.

He also mentioned that the Association now controlled the Tarn and a major part of the river and explained the clinching of the purchase of the Hammond Fishery by the Holding Company.

At the Council Meeting which followed the A.G.M. a letter was read from a Mr J.T. Peel suggesting that in return for a fishing permit the M.A.A. members would be allowed to continue the use of the stile in his garden wall, giving access to the left bank of the river at the head of Rowe End Pool. After the exchange of several more letters it was unanimously decided to inform Peel that none of his suggestions were acceptable and that the members would be advised not to use the stile.

In December 1947 the Vicar of Horton asked for permission to fish in Horton but this was refused as it was thought that permission would open the way for other people in Horton to join the club. The rules stated that members should all live at least 40 miles away from the Fishery.

## Fishing Rights on the River Ribble

At the July Council meeting Mr Barnes explained the events affecting the “Helwith Flats” length of the River under which Messrs Harrisons demanded a rental of £20 per annum as from 15th March 1947. It was proposed that a lease of 10 years at a rental of £20 per annum maximum should be sought.

### Restocking

It was decided that the following trout were to be ordered for delivery in September 1947.

Tarn	300	8” fish	For Admiral Ian Thom
Ribble	300	5/6” fish	200 5/6” fish (possibly as rental for part of the
Lune	200	5/6” fish	Lune)

The Ribble Conservancy Board wrote to the Fishing Secretary to say that the Association may have infringed the bylaw whereby any persons intending to restock the Ribble must first obtain the Board’s consent. An apology was sent with a Certificate of Freedom from Disease furnished by the Trent Fishery.

### Salmon Pass

A Ribble Conservancy Board Meeting had been held in Clitheroe on July 10th, 1947, where the item on the agenda affecting the Association’s interest was that the Conveyancing Board Clerk be power to apply to the Ministry of Fisheries for permission to compel the Settle weir owners to allow a salmon pass to be constructed. Such power having been deferred until the October meeting until expert opinions on food supplies and poaching possibilities had been obtained.

It was resolved by Mr H. Burgess and Mr L. Marsden that the Association obtain an expert independent opinion at it’s own expense.

The construction of a fish pass at Settle had been discussed for many years but no action had been taken.

## Annual Dinner 1947

The Annual Dinner was held on Thursday March 6th 1947 at the Grand Hotel in Manchester. The occasion was not written into the Minutes and, as at the previous Dinner, no menu was saved. From the first Association dinner in 1898 until and including the event in 1912, elaborate menus had been produced. The next printed menu in the archives is that if the Dinner in 1954.

### Ladies’ Evening

It was intended to Hold the usual Ladies Evening in December 1947. However “due to the difficulties of transport and catering, it was decided to hold over the event for this year”.

There had been no mention of a Ladies’ Evening in the Minutes since before the W.W.1. Perhaps they had taken place but were not worthy of inclusion in the Log.



The Tarn n winter, 1947

## Monthly and Council Meetings

From the first meeting of the M.A.A. in 1887, there had been monthly meetings held in Manchester, following a high tea, usually held at the Clarence Hotel in Piccadilly. At these meetings it was usual for one of the members to read a paper on some aspect of fishing which he had written. The meeting usually closed with everyone singing songs written by some of the more musical members.

By the time of W.W.I, magic lantern and film shows had replaced the reading of papers. The meetings no longer ended with group singing. Few of the Anglers were "Gentlemen of Leisure", their lives were busier, it was no longer a "Literary and Fishing Club". Six monthly meetings a year were still held until 1922 when only the A.G.M and three meetings in February, March, October and November were held, 1924 when only the A.G.M and two meetings in January, March and December were held and 1925 when only the A.G.M and one meeting in March took place. There was no report of 1923. After that it was decided not to hold monthly meetings and to hold Council meetings at such times and places as the Council should decide.

The Council settled into a routine of A.G.M. in March followed by a Council meeting on the same day and held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester. The other two or three Council meetings were held in the offices of one of the members of the Council, also in Manchester.

## Annual General Meeting, March 1948

The A.G.M. was held at the Engineers Club in Albert Square in Manchester followed by a Council meeting.

There were a number of resignations from the Council and new members were voted in. This injection of new blood may explain the fact that the frequency of meetings increased, the written reports had more content, the anglers had become more enthusiastic.

Membership was:-

Honorary and Life	4		
Ribble and Lune	29		
Ribble only	43		
Non-fishing	6	total 72	with 3 available places.

An appeal against the rating assessment on the Ribble Fishery had been successful so a reduction in charges from £84 to £29 per annum would be entailed.

At the same meeting the Keeper, Walter Pollard, was to retire from his Guest House business carried out at Billy Gath opposite the station so would be able to devote more time to our fishery during the next season. The present rate of remuneration of £76 p.a. was for river watching, any other job was to be paid for separately.

## Council Meeting, December 1948

A new Tarn boat was needed so the firm in Radcliffe was to be contacted again. It was not many years since the last boat had been purchased. There had been several accidents with the anchor, on the last occasion the anchor had gone right through the bottom of the boat.

A report had been sought on water analysis on the Tarn by Mr J.L. Wilson. The Council felt that the report was so far reaching that it could not possibly be fully considered at the meeting. It was decided to leave any action to the Fishing Committee.

## The Sixty-Ninth Annual General Meeting, March 1948

After the usual elections and reading of the report for 1947, a Council meeting was held at which the following items were discussed.

### Restocking of the Lune

Along with representatives of clubs and associations Mr Barnes attended a meeting of the Lune Conservancy Board. It was decided that restocking of the upper Lune with brown trout be undertaken by the various bodies. The Conservancy Board agreed to rateably subsidise the expenditure, and our Association agreeing to an expenditure of £30. At the M.A.A. Council meeting it was agreed to expend this sum per annum for three years and that if results justify it a continuance of stocking be then made. If no appreciable difference accrued then restocking of the Lune with brown trout be discontinued and the water be treated as a purely migratory fish water.

### Newhouses Tarn

The Keeper, Walter Pollard was to be asked to give his views on the possibilities and cost of constructing a stone and concrete stillage at the Tarn, such stillage to be just awash with the surface. The Senior Vice-President, Mr Isett offered to supply suitable timber for work at the Tarn when supplies became easier.

Once again the suggestion was made that alteration should be made to the Tarn outfall so as to allow the Tarn fish to spawn. A special committee was formed to look into this idea. However at the Council meeting in November 1948, it was reported that the committee formed to consider the possibilities had not met, as no useful purpose would have been served, labour not being available.



The dilapidated wooden stillage

## John L. (Woodrow) Wilson

'Woodrow' Wilson, a bachelor, joined the club in 1939. Until he retired in 1948 he was the borough analyst of Burnley. 'Woodrow' was good company, he was an ideal member of the club, never complaining if he did not catch fish, this was partially self imposed since he favoured the dry fly almost to the exclusion of any other method. He would drop his fly not more than two rods length away on mirror flat water in bright sunshine and await results, which of course were very rarely forthcoming. On retiring to Horton he first lodged at Blindbeck and then at Southview, Newhouses with Joe Towler and his wife. He joined in to village life with enthusiasm. He would walk up to the Tarn from Newhouses and have chats with the anglers fishing there. For a few years he was elected to the Ribble Fishing Committee in recognition of his contribution to the club.

'Woodrow' could be found in the Golden Lion on some evenings of the week where he would have a maximum of a couple of pints. This was enough to make him even more sociable. I can remember in the early 1950s there was a knock on our cottage door at Douk Ghyll quite late on a winter's evening. It was Woodrow and the Vicar, both slightly the worse for wear. They had been having a friendly argument and had come along because they were sure that Leonard, my father, with his African experiences could resolve it. The question was that if you were in the desert and found a snake trail how could you tell which way it was going? My father with a very straight face considered the matter for some time and then told them it was a question of how the displaced sand lay. A bit like how the bow of a ship would displace the water. They were very grateful for this solution, steadfastly they refused an invitation into the cottage and perhaps a cup of black coffee and retreated down the lane, still 'chunnering' between themselves as they went back to the pub.

'Woodrow' had one long term gripe about the Tarn and this was the pollution of the water by cattle dropping dung as they came to the water a couple of times each day for a drink. He also was worried about goose droppings from domestic birds put on the lake by the farmer John Davidson of Newhouses— they were his cattle also.

'Woodrow' was, as borough analyst, in an ideal position to test the damage to the water. This he did from time to time, but he never got any conclusive results. This however did not stop him complaining. It says a lot for 'Woodrow' that despite all this he got on with his next door neighbour John Davidson very well.

In retirement Woodrow had several hobbies one of which was woodwork. He took a cherry wood shaft from a cart and fashioned it into a walking stick with an inlayed knob handle. It took him many hours to make and I still own it.

Woodrow got throat cancer, withstood it with fortitude and died in 1958. Before he died he gave me several of his books and his University Year book for 1906.



From David Marsden's "Thoughts on Fishing in Horton" 2005.

## **Bosley Reservoir, Macclesfield**

Anglers who resided in the south of Manchester were interested in finding fishing waters closer to home.

“The Secretary had been in negotiations with a Mr Yates with regard to fishing available at Bosley Reservoir near Macclesfield. Photographs were produced and Mr Isitt read a very lucid description of the waters and surroundings following a visit there by Mr Kershaw and himself. Messrs Marsden and Sutcliffe had made the initial visit and were able to add first hand descriptions.

A lengthy discussion followed as to the possibilities of financing the fishing if it were available and the methods to be adopted for administration.”

At the next meeting in March 1949, the secretary reported the negative results of the negotiations with Mr Yates and the Bosley reservoir Fishing committee.

## **Annual General Meeting, March 1949**

The A.G.M. was again held at the Engineers Club in Albert Square in Manchester followed by a Council meeting.

## **The New Boat**

In 1949, a new boat, which had been ordered from a boat builder in Radcliffe the previous year, was delivered to the Tarn. A circular was sent to all members with rules its careful management, the previous one which had lasted 7 years had been damaged by an anchor being dropped into the boat.

The secretary produced a pair of ex-government over-shoes, “possibly suitable for protection over brogues, when using the boat”. He was instructed to purchase 10 pairs, leaving 2 in the Boat House and keeping 8 pairs in reserve.

A baling can was to be provided for the boat.



## Annual Dinner 1949



**Back row**

N.G. Isset, President

**Seated**

L Marsden Vice president  
(behind Daffodils)

Walter Pollard, River Watcher



Christmas card sent to Council members by Mr Isset, the President.