

Chapter 12



1951 – 1960



The Council for 1951

President	L Marsden
Vice President	C S Freeman
Vice President	H Kershaw
Treasurer	H. Kershaw
Hon Secretary	J. Sutcliffe
Lune, Fishing Secretary	J Barnes
Ribble, Fishing Secretary	Wilfred Barnes

Annual General Meeting, March 6th 1951

March 6th 1951 was a busy day. The AGM, which was again held at the Engineers Club in Albert Square in Manchester was preceded by an Extraordinary meeting, and followed by the usual Council Meeting.

Extraordinary meeting It was proposed and accepted that Junior members, i.e. those under 18 years, should be charged half the adult rate, but they should not take part in the management of the Association.

Annual General Meeting At the meeting Harry Kershaw was elected as Hon Treasurer, J.C. Sutcliffe elected as Hon Secretary and Leonard Marsden as President.

The AGM was immediately followed by the usual Council Meeting.

Council Meeting

The Tarn

At the Council Meeting in November it was reported that the Tarn had been restocked with 100 7-8" and 250 8-9" trout from the Trent Farm. This prompted a discussion upon the welfare of the Tarn in general with a contribution from H Kershaw dealing largely with the all important question of weed and its control. It was decided that the weed should be tackled as early in the season as possible, before growth had become lengthy or hard. It was left to the Fishing Secretary and the Fishing Committee to instruct Pollard on these lines.

Ladies Evening

The Grand Hotel in Manchester had been booked for Friday, February 1st. An entertainment was to be arranged.

Helwith Bridge Fishing length

Negotiations were underway to

HORTON (IN RIBBLESDALE)

*It's a stop on the way to
a brighter Britain*



Little Horton joins the Festival



Sixty-five miles from Carlisle, 242 from London, is the proud little railway station at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, a Yorkshire village of 700 people, at an altitude of 850 feet.

Expresses pant through the station giving passengers but a blur of the beautifully laid-out flower beds.

Local people take their time and, inside the station, wander around a little geological exhibition and art show staged by Stationmaster J. M. Taylor and his staff to prove that Horton has a place in Britain's Festival year.

Porter Norman Jackman (above) spends his spare time weeding. And Signalman J. B. Skipsey and a colleague down the line have done paintings and sketches of local beauty spots. The stationmaster is hanging them in the booking hall.

Horton won the Best-kept Station on a number of occasions with a succession of enthusiastic gardeners

Leonard Marsden



Leonard Marsden was a member of Manchester Anglers Association from 1941 until 1968. He was on the Council from 1946, Vice President in 1949 and 1950, President in 1951 and again Vice President in 1963 and 1964 and President in 1965. He was also Ribble Fishing Secretary from 1954 until 1968.

Leonard from Stockport had been introduced to the club by the MAA Secretary, Clifford Sutcliffe, after the Doctor had recommended that Leonard's health after a three month illness could be improved by some relaxing hobby.

Leonard was Managing Director of a Leather Tanning business in Ashton under Lyne. This necessitated him travelling on buying trips to Nigeria several times each year. These commitments sometimes brought him into conflict with the Fishing Club. His son, David Marsden, also an MAA member, sometime stood in for his father when Leonard was abroad.



Leonard's favourite fishing spot.

Council Meetings 1952

Permanent Headquarters

At the Council meeting in November 1952

“It was voiced from several quarters that the establishment of a recognised permanent headquarters would be very desirable and where Council and Business meetings could if necessary be combined. There was no wish to pass over Mr Burgess’s kindness in allowing the use of his offices for the purpose of meetings but it was felt that this was at times an imposition, particularly when a considerable attendance came along, the accommodation being limited and that venue being at some distance from the city centre.

The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries of suitable establishments, The Swan with Two Necks (Withy Grove) being reported as possibly suitable”



The Swan with Two Necks, Withy Grove, Manchester

As the result of this enquiry, Council meetings for the next two years were held at The Swan with Two Necks in Withy Grove in central Manchester.

“The brand of the liquid served during an interval for refreshment suited the members , it was apparent that the meeting desired a repetition of the arrangements”

40 Mile rule.

A lengthy discussion was held on the 40 mile limit after several applications from anglers wishing to join the Association. Some members felt that applicants living outside 30 mile should be considered, however it was decided to uphold the 40 mile rule.

Council Meetings 1953

Association Library

At the March 1953 Council meeting the Secretary reported the cataloguing of the library by a Junior member, D.J.S.Marsden. The management of the extensive library of fishing books which had accumulated, either bought or donated by members since the start of the club in 1887 had become a problem. The Library had been kept in a cupboard either at the Hotel used for the meetings or later in the office of a member who had his offices in central Manchester. Anglers could borrow and return books at the current premises. By 1953 the books were at the offices of Leonard Marsden, the President.

Mr Kershaw proposed that an Evan Kerr of Kendal should, working from a list, should undertake the valuation of the Library.

The library was eventually sold at a low price, some of the books later acquiring a good valuation due to a wider interest in fishing

Sewage Plant at Horton

Members were worried that the building of a Sewage Plant at Horton could result in pollution of the river.

Fly Fishing

Dr Luxton wished to test the feeling of the members on restricting a length of the Ribble fishery to 'fly only'. Alternatively to restrict spinning to between April 1st and August 31st to avoid taking hungry and ill-conditioned trout in numbers in the early season and hen fish coming on to forming ova in the late season. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to leave matters as they stood and to rely upon good sportsmanship and good manners of members who indulge in the use of the spinning rod.

The use of fly only, was eventually decided upon in 1979.

Ladies' Evening

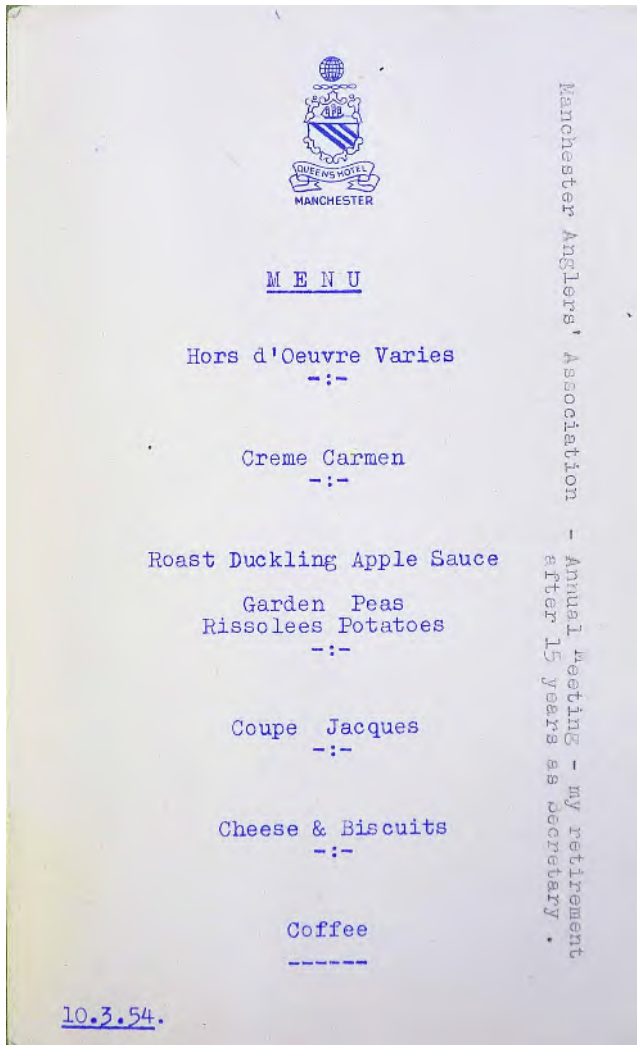
A Ladies' Evening was to be arranged for February 26th at the Reform Club.

The Annual General Meeting 1954

The 75th AGM was held at The Queen's Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 10th 1954 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

There were present the President, T Watson in the chair. Of the Officers and Council, Messrs W.L. Walker, R.W. Luxton, H. Burgess, L. Marsden, A.C. Main, W Barnes, N.F. Hastein, A.G Walker and J.S. Sutcliffe.

Of the members generally Messrs H. Griffin, Basil Lee, R. Clough, H Dempster, G.B.C. Henderson, F.W Burns and R. Hartley. Our Ribble Keeper W Pollard attended as a guest of the Association.. Mr J.L.Finery was a guest of W.L. Walker.



Annual Dinner 1954



Theo Watson	(Council)
Walter Walker	(President)
Jack Hemming	Guest
Harry Griffin, a Painter and Decorator	(Council)
R W Luxton, a Doctor	(Junior Vice President)
Harry Burgess, of Burgess Bedding	(Council)
Leonard Marsden	(Ribble Fishing Sec)
Basil Lee, Accountant	
Robert Clough	(Council)
Arthur Main, OBE and Director of AEI (Senior Vice President)	
Wilfred Barnes, Textile Mill owner in Oldham and owned part of the Lune Fishery	(Lune Fishing Sec)
Walter Pollard	(Bailiff)
Harold Dempster	
GBC Henderson	
L (Freddy) Burns, in Insurance	(Council)
R Thornton	
Jack Barns, in Textiles,	
son of Wilfred Barnes who had been a member	
Norman Halstain	(Council)
AS (Jerry) Walker, Bank Manager	(Secretary and Treasurer)

Council Meetings 1954

Restocking, February 1954

“In the absence of L Marsden, the Ribble Secretary, a letter from him was read by the President. Whilst appreciating Mr Marsden’s suggestion that the 1954 river stocking should be cut to 1000 trout and the money saved be spent on river work it was decided that to thoroughly investigate the value of making more holding water, it would be inadvisable to introduce too wide a variant from the existing system. It was further decided that it would be advantageous to revert to the stocking of both river and tarn immediately upon the close of the fishing season. To this end it was proposed that arrangements be at once put in hand to order from the Trent Trout Farm 1500 5 - 6” trout (in addition to those normally ordered for Admiral Ian Thom’s water in lieu of rental) for delivery immediately following Easter (Easter Monday being 19th April) and that these fish be planted in the river ABOVE New Inn Bridge. Also 400 8—9” brown trout for stocking the river in October. The provisional order to be subject to confirmation later in the season”

At the October Council Meeting a letter from Leonard Marsden was read out reporting the addition of 400 brown trout to the Tarn on 10th October.

At the November Meeting a telephone call was received from Leonard Marsden, Ribble Fishing Secretary, who had just arrived home from abroad stating that owing to the continuous floods experienced during the past season, the autumn stocking order for 1500 5”- 6” brown trout had not been made so the question was deferred to the next Council Meeting when it was hoped that the Fishing Secretary would be able to attend.

Ribble Fishery Association

The MAA became a member of the Ribble Fishery Association.

Use of the Gaff

It was resolved that the use of the gaff on the Association’s Lune waters was to be prohibited.

Caravans

Members were not to be allowed to park caravans in any field adjoining the fishing.

Ladies Evening

A Ladies Evening was held at The Queen’s Hotel, Manchester on 14th December. Tickets were be a guinea each. The entertainment was Norman Cliff, conjuror at a cost of 6 Guineas.

Farmer’s Dinner

A Farmer’s Dinner was to be held in Horton on Saturday 25th September. This was again a successful occasion so it was proposed that it become an annual event.

Swan with Two Necks

The Council felt that it needed to find a more congenial meeting place so in future their Meetings would take place at The Queen’s Hotel in Manchester.

Council Meetings 1955

Financial Position

At the January meeting the secretary reported that the figures for the previous year showed that expenditure had exceeded income for the fourth year in succession and the deficit for 1954 was substantially in excess of that for each of the previous three years. The balance in hand had been reduced to a figure which left little margin available to meet further excess expenditure.

A sub-committee was set up composed of the President, W.L. Walker, Secretary, J.C. Sutcliffe and members of the Council, L Marsden, F.Burns and R. Clough to enquire into the financial position and to make recommendations.

At the next meeting various recommendations were set out.

- 1, Increase the fishing membership from 75 to 85
- 2, Increase the Lune membership from 30 to 40.
- 3, Increase the Annual Subscription to £1/1/-
- 4, Distance qualification to be abolished. Vacancies to be given to applicants from the Manchester area, the membership to be made up from the waiting list at the discretion of the Council.
- 5, It was suggested that W. Pollard, the River Keeper to be informed that owing to financial stringency it had been decided to dispense with the services of a paid Keeper.
- 6, As an incentive to increase membership it was suggested that the Entrance Fee be reduced to £3/3 -.

After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that

- 1, The total membership to be raised to 80.
- 2, No change to be made to the total number of Lune fishing members, to remain at 30.
- 3, Subscriptions for existing members to be raised by £2/2/ - as from January 1956. Ribble members to pay £9/9—and Lune members £12/12/ - per annum. The increased subscription to apply from March 1955 for new members.
- 4, The distance qualification to be 'suspended' not 'abolished'.
- 5, Payment to W. Pollard, the River Keeper, could not continue to be justified on the present basis without commensurate services being rendered in return and that the Ribble Fishing Secretary should go into the matter further in view of the uncertainty of the terms of Pollard's engagement.
- 6, From March, the Entrance Fee would be reduced from £6/6—to £3/3/ -.

Restocking

Owing to the need for economy the order for restocking be restricted to 400 8" - 9" brown trout be put into the Tarn in early October plus the usual number of brown trout for Admiral Thom's water in lieu of rent. The restocking of the river to be deferred until later in the year.

The Lune Fishing Board offered to stun the becks adjoining the water on the main river and to transfer 5" - 6" fish to the main river for restocking. This was accepted.

Patrolling the Ribble

L. Marsden, the Ribble Fishing Secretary was asked to explore the possibility of having the higher reaches of the Ribble watched by suitable farmers in return for restricted fishing permits. It was understood that poaching was prevalent as the higher reaches were not being patrolled.

Walter Pollard only watched the river from his taxi as he ferried passengers up and down the valley.

Free Fishing Tickets

It was decided to rescind the special free fishing tickets brought in for members of H.M Forces during the war.

Ribble weirs

The river fishing Secretary appealed for volunteers to assist in the making of weirs and other improvements to the facilities. It was suggested that information should be made available at The Crown Hotel, Horton of the locations where it was proposed to carry out maintenance. The secretary would welcome assistance when river conditions were suitable for the work to be carried out.

Trustees

The appointment of J.C. Sutcliffe (MAA Secretary) was to be rescinded and L. Marsden to take his place. The Trustees would be A.C. Main, J Barnes and L Marsden.

The new MAA Secretary would be Dr R.W. Luxton

River Keeper

Walter Pollard's condition of employment were reviewed. He was to become Honorary Water Bailiff with an Honorarium of £25 per annum.

Mr T Richardson was to be appointed as River Watcher in return for free fishing facilities which were to be granted at the discretion of the Fishing Secretary. Mr Richardson, a gamekeeper, however resigned from this position in February 1956 as he retired and moved away from Horton.



Tommy Richardson , the Gamekeeper
And River Keeper for a few months

Fishing Purchase

Two small additional lengths were purchased in February at the cost of £15. The Dale Loge fishing was purchased for £150. This was subject to the tenants right to fish during the week, not at weekends in return for river watching and 6 Day Tickets. Mr Tattersall's length was to be purchased for £200 and 6 Day Tickets.

Distance qualification

Membership numbers had improved so the temporary suspension of the 40 mile limit was unanimously rescinded.

Settle Weir

A formal protest was lodged with the Lancashire River Board and Ribble Fisheries Association against the erection of a fish pass at Langcliffe weir. This idea had been in the air for many years but had not been carried out.

Effluent

The considerable increase in the discharge of effluent from the quarry was causing anxiety, the quarry manager promised to give the matter his attention

Vandalism

There was a display of hooliganism by 10 boys in camp from Newcastle Royal Grammar School who threw stones off the field boundary walls into the Tarn. The Headmaster apologised for the misbehaviour of the boys.

The Annual General Meeting 1956

The 77th AGM was held at The Queen's Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday March 13th 1956 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

There were present, The president, Mr A.C. Main in the chair. Of the Officers and Councilors, Messrs R.W. Luxton, R. Clough, J Barnes, T.F. Watson, L Marsden, F.H. Burns, T.F.S. Higham, N.F. Hastain, H Griffin, A.S. Walker.

Of the members generally, Messrs H Dempster, B Lee, F Ashcroft, J.C. Sutcliffe, R Hartley, and G Morris and in addition Dr J Lee attended as the guest of L Marsden.

At this meeting the Accounts were approved so the measures adopted in January 1955 must have been successful. Mr D.J Lee was thanked for his services during the previous year and was again to be Honorary Auditor for the MAA for the next year.

Council Meetings 1956

Distance qualification

Membership numbers had improved so the temporary suspension of the 40 mile limit was unanimously rescinded.

Membership in 1956 was	Ribble	50
	Lune and Ribble	30
	Waiting List	3
	Non-fishing	5

Holdings Company

Attention was drawn to the difficulties in experienced in disposing of shares which came on offer through resignation or otherwise of shareholding members and also of raising additional capital to finance purchase of fishing rights which the Association might desire to acquire. Failing adequate response from existing shareholders, it was suggested that in addition to circulating members generally, the attention of members who had joined during recent years should be drawn to the functions and objects of the Holding Company.

Admiral Thom died in October 1956 so his holding on the river was expected to come up for sale in the near future

Stocking

It was decided restock in autumn instead of late spring so an order was made to buy 1500 5” – 6” trout and 400 8”- 9” trout from Dunsop Bridge in the Lake District to be put into our waters in autumn.

Admiral Thom, who let fishing to the Association and preferred spring stocking, had a quota of brown trout delivered to him in June.

Ribble Rates

Under new assessment from Settle UDC the rating on the Ribble had increased from £45 to £100 which would involve a net increase in rates payable of £25/3/4 per annum. Having regard to the effects of the prolonged drought last year, the lime effluent from the quarry and recent operations on the Ribble by the Lancashire Rivers Board, a strong protest was lodged at the increased assessment and to make a suitable appeal for a reduction even beyond the original figure.

Ribble

The Lancashire Rivers Board were carrying out dredging and widening on the river at Studfold where the river often flooded in heavy rain.

It was felt that the work carried out had seriously damaged the MAA fishing so the Rivers Board was advised accordingly and notified that suitable compensation would later be claimed.

After consultation it was found that the Association could not legally impose any restraint on the Boards operations. In arriving at any claim for damages, ownership of the fishing rights could be a material factor and at present, owners other than the Association were involved.

Jackson's lease was due for renewal and there was some question as to whether Farrer's length had changed ownership. The secretary was authorised to negotiate renewal of the tenancies as soon as possible and if necessary to increase the rental to £100.

Ladies' Evening

The holding of a Ladies' Evening was no longer considered desirable owing to lack of support.

Farmers' Dinner

The Farmers' Dinner held on 29th September and was a great success.

The Annual General Meeting 1957

The 78th AGM was held at The Queen's Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 1st 1954 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

The retiring President, Dr Luxton was replaced by Mr R. Clough with FW Burns and NF Hastain as Vice Presidents,

On the Council were to be AG Walker as Secretary, L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and Honorary Librarian, EC Smith as the Lune Fishing Secretary. The other members of the Council were TF Watson, RW Luxton, G Morris, H Griffin, J Barnes, JF Ingham and H Morris.

Council Meetings 1957

Ribble Tenancies

Jackson's lease was renewed for 5 years at the existing rental and Davidson's lease for a further 10 years at an increased rental of £40 per annum.

The late Admiral Thom's legal representative had agreed to further leasing of the fishing water.

Fishing Returns

Few members had sent in fishing returns, this was deplored by the fishing secretary.

Library

It was decided to dispose of the Association Library as there was little demand from members for borrowing the books.

At the following AGM in March 1958 the Council decided to house the books at the offices in Market Street of NF Hastain, Vice President for a trial period of 12 months.

Lune Fishing

Each year anglers moved between Ribble only and Ribble and Lune Fishing; a waiting list was operated such was the popularity of the Lune where the fishing was for brown trout and Salmon.

With at least a third of the members fishing both the Ribble and the Lune, there was much interest and some alarm when the Rivers Board proposed to put a fish pass and fish trap at Broadrains Weir on the Lune. The anglers were reassured that fish for tagging would only be taken from the water during the Open Fishing Season after which they would be released above the weir to continue their migration. During the closed season however fish would be stripped of ova for the purpose of artificial propagation and for scientific purposes.

Council Meetings 1958

Lune Fishing

As the rental for fishing lengths on the Lune was rising, the MAA was finding it difficult to find the fees. The desirability of separating the membership of the Lune Fishery from obligatory Ribble Membership was discussed and the Secretary was to go into the financial considerations which this would entail.

Restocking of the Lune with brown trout was left pending the outcome of separating the membership.

During the next season Ribble only members would be permitted to fish the Lune waters of the Association for brown trout only during the months of March, April and May. A maximum of 3 Day tickets per member would be available at a cost of 5/- each.

Ribble Fishing

The Rivers' Board wished to put salmon parr into the MAA fishing waters. The Council strongly disagreed with the proposal.

The Rivers' Board had again dredged the river at Studfold. The Secretary said that it would appear that the Rivers' Board had the power to carry out dredging operations without MAA consent.

Finances

After wide discussion regarding the finances of the Association which were closely bound up with the affairs of the Holding Company which had been set up to purchase Ribble fishing lengths, a subcommittee was set up comprising R Cough, EC Smith, L Marsden and the Secretary, A.G. Waltker. They were to examine the following

- 1, The best method to build up reserves to purchase fishing rights.
- 2, Affairs and general position of the Holdings Company and best solution to the present unsatisfactory situation.
- 3, Necessary figures to justify an increase in subscription.

The Annual General Meeting 1959

The 79th AGM was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 2nd 1959 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

The retiring President, F Burns was replaced by N F Hastain, Vice Presidents H Griffin and H Morris, Secretary AG Walker, Ribble Fishing Secretary L Marsden and Lune Fishing Secretary EC Smith

Council Meetings 1959

Farmers' Dinner

A Farmer's Dinner was to be arranged for September.

Ladies' Evening

Members were circularised to ascertain what support was likely if it was decided to hold a Ladies' Evening at the end of the year.

Enough ladies replied so the event was held at the beginning of March and another arranged for November. The latter event was not well attended but was enjoyed by the diners.

The Tarn

Members were asked to refrain from fishing from the boat while to was in motion when there were anglers fishing from the bank.

Finances

The subcommittee had looked into the Association's Finances and as a result it was decided from 1st January 1960 to increase the

Lune and Ribble membership fees by £6/6/- to £18/18/-.

Ribble membership by £4/4/- to £13/13/-.

Entrance fee to £10/10/-.

A special fund of £250 be maintained for the purpose of acquiring shares in the Holding Company from retired or deceased members, the present Reserve Fund to be used for that purpose. The additional balance required to be transferred from the general funds of the Association.

This fund was to be held in a new account at the William and Deacon's Bank.

The Holding Company, which had been formed in July 1938 was finding it increasingly difficult to dispose of shares to other members of the Association.

Purchase of Ribble Fishing lengths.

A further stretch of the river below Cam Beck was acquired for £250.

Typewriter

A new typewriter was purchased for £25.

Ribble Fisheries Association.

Leonard Marsden was elected to the Executive Committee of the R.F.A.

The Annual General Meeting 1960

The 75th AGM was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 14th 1960 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

The retiring President, N F Hastain was replaced by H Morris, Vice Presidents J Barnes and WC Mellor, Secretary AG Walker, Ribble Fishing Secretary L Marsden and Lune Fishing Secretary EC Smith.

Other Council members were to be R Clough, DJS Marsden, AC main, G Morris, AK Bray, NF Hastain and FW Burns.

Council Meetings 1960

Library

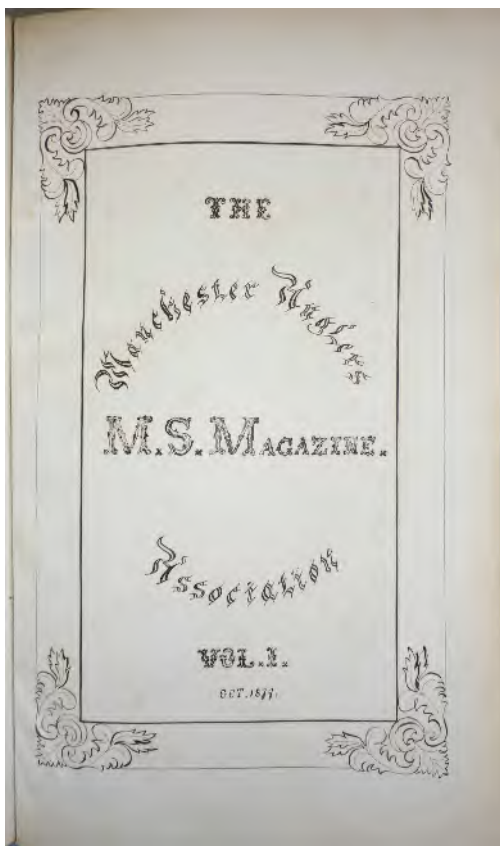
Valuation of the library had been made by AR Hattersley.

Printed Books £160

Manuscript and Scrap Books £150

The Valuer made a personal offer of £150. He recommended that the Association retain the 9 Manuscript and 5 Scrap Books .

A second offer of £45 was received for the printed books. The previous offer of £150 was reduced to £100 so it was agreed to sell the library at £100 to the President H Morris.



The Manuscript Books , with entries by the early member of the Association, are a wonderful snapshot of the Association in the late 19th Century.

The Scrapbooks contain newspaper cuttings of the time. Without these books the early history of the Association could not have been written.

Many of the Library books which were disposed of have appreciated in value over the years with some of them sold on to very enthusiastic American Anglers.

A list of all the books catalogued in 1911 can be found in Chapter 7.

Farmers' Dinner and Ladies' Evening

The Farmer's Dinner and Ladies' Evening were again planned to be held at the end of the season.

The Ribble Watcher

Parker, a River Board Bailiff was to be engaged as an additional river watcher as there had been several cases of poaching.

Tarn fish

The size of the fish taken on the Tarn to be reduced from 12" to 10".