



Chapter 13

1961 – 1970



The Council for 1961

President	J Barnes
Vice President	W.C. Mellor
Vice President	J.K. Bray
Treasurer	A.G Walker
Hon Secretary	A.G. Walker
Lune, Fishing Secretary	J Barnes
Ribble, Fishing Secretary	L Marsden

The Annual General Meeting 1961

The 82nd AGM was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 9th 1961 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

Mr J Barnes became the new President with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, WC Mellor and JK Bray as Vice Presidents.

L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.

The other members of the Council were , RJ Brookes, R Clough, NF Hastain, AC Main, G. Morris and H Morris and DJS Marsden.

Attendance

In his speech the new President noted that the poor attendance, only 19 out of the 85 members attended the AGM and Dinner.

Library

The President said that the library had been bought by the retiring President, H Morris for £100, he was willing to lend books to members on application.

Lune Fishery

Mr Barnes regretted that opportunities had not been taken in past years to consolidate the Lune Fishery as was the case on the Ribble. Recent activities of a Mr Davis who had acquired some of the MAA's former water at inflated prices had caused difficulties with other owners from whom the MAA rented water.

One of the members drew attention to the auction of a mile and a quarter of Lune Fishing on our bank below Kirby Lonsdale shortly to take place and urged that the Association should consider its possible purchase. In addition, an adjoining cottage was also to be offered as a separate lot and that also might be acquired for letting to members and their families.

The general opinion was that the price was likely to be prohibitive and beyond the financial resources available.



Council Meetings 1961

Farmers' Dinner

A Farmer's Dinner was to be arranged for later in the year in spite of the fact that the previous dinner had been so poorly attended.

Hayfield

There was a possibility of renting fishing at a reservoir near Hayfield

Membership

It was decided to raise the membership limit from 85 to 95.

The Lune membership was 30 and the Ribble membership, 82. Many of the anglers fished both waters.

Midlands Canoe Club

This Club had asked for permission to hold a slalom canoe event on the Association's water on the river Lune. The Association gave permission for the event to be held only out of fishing season. However the event took place in spite of objections of both the Association and of Mr Davis from whom the MAA rent the fishing. Objections to the event and withdrawal of permission to hold the event out of season was sent to the canoe club.

Lune rentals

There were more problems with the rental of fishing waters on the River Lune. The recent high price realised for Lune fishing rights was going to make renewal of tenancies difficult on the whole of the river.

Restocking on the Ribble and Tarn

In November 750 8" trout were put into the Tarn. The Admiral's water and our own water were stocked with 700 yearling trout.

Fishing Rules

Complaints were received regarding methods of fishing by certain members so amendments to the rules were adopted.

Lune	All hooked salmon to be returned to the water
Lune and Ribble	All forms of maggot fishing prohibited

The Annual General Meeting 1962

The 83rd AGM was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 9th 1962 following a dinner at 6.45 in the evening.

WC Mellor became the new President with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, JK Bray and G Morris as Vice Presidents.

L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.

The Tarn

Since the size of fish allowed to be taken at the Tarn had been reduced from 12" to 10" there had been an improvement experienced in both number of fish caught and they were of a heavier weight.

Council Meetings 1962

Accommodation in Horton

The Council discussed the possibility of having a fishing hut or quarters at the farm below Newhouses Tarn or in that vicinity.

Lune fishing

Since the fish trap had been installed at Broadrains Weir, the number of salmon taken above the weir had dropped considerably whereas there had been good takes below the weir and especially good catches in the river which enters the Lune below the weir. It was suggested that the fish trap be sited lower down the Lune nearer to Lancaster.

The Farmers' Dinner

Owing to lack of interest the holding of the Farmers' Dinner would be suspended until its resumption was desirable.

Ladies' Evening

It was thought desirable to arrange a Ladies' Evening in November.

The Tarn

Help from members was requested to remove some of the weed from the Tarn .
The boathouse was showing its age so it was suggested that it should be enlarged to provide shelter for members.

The anglers who fished the river also felt that they needed a fishing hut.

The Lune

Anglers who fished the Lune also felt that their hut at Davy Bank was dilapidated and needed repair.

The Holding Company

The Holding Company had bought shares of £5 each costing £630 from retiring members and from executors of deceased members. The Association now owned £1030 of the Company's paid up capital of £2795.

The Holding Company had purchased Mr R Davis' length on the Ribble for £154, paid for by annual instalments to the Holding Company.

The Ribble

Mr L Marsden, the Ribble Secretary attended a meeting of the Ribble Fisheries Association at which plans for building a dam for a reservoir on the Ribble near Long Preston were made known. As there appeared to be every indication that fish ladders will also be installed in Settle Weir, the new reservoir could improve our fishing.

Dredging operations had again been carried out by the Rivers Board on the lower lengths of our fishing and it was understood that Settle Anglers were prepared to seek an injunction to restrain the Board from carrying out similar operations on their length. It was agreed to await the outcome of their injunction before considering the same remedy.

The Annual General Meeting 1963

The AGM followed by a Council Meeting was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday March 7th 1961.

JK Bray became the new President with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, G Morris and L Marsden as Vice Presidents.

L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.

Membership of the Association was	Lune and Ribble	30
	Ribble	46
	Non Fishing	2

Council Meetings 1963

Restocking

In view of the possibility of serious losses of trout due to the prolonged severe weather, the Ribble Secretary was authorised at his discretion, to arrange for any additional restocking in the spring if desirable.

Ribble Fishing

Owing to the adverse effects of the severe winter it was proposed that fly fishing only, be permitted until July 15th 1963.

Chemical Fertilizer

After discussion of the recent publicity given to the use of chemical fertilizers to improve fisheries it was decided to take no action pending further enquiries.

Farmers' Dinner and Ladies' Evening

It was decided not to re-institute the holding of the Farmers' Dinner this year but the Ladies' Evening would be held in November.

Rating Assessments

As a result of new assessment, rates for the Lune had been increased from £33 to £79 making an annual increase in payment of £3/3/4.

For the Ribble, rates had increased from £90 to £300, an increased annual payment of £50/9/6.

A protest at the steep rises had been lodged.

Lune Fishing

Two new fishing huts had been erected and the old ones demolished.

The new weir was still having an adverse effect on the run of salmon in the Association's fishing waters.

Ribble River Keeper

Walter Pollard was no longer carrying out his duties in a satisfactory manner, general maintenance had been neglected, he was not popular in the locality and people were reluctant to work for him. It was felt that there had been a deterioration for some years and that the position could not be allowed to continue.

It was decided to dispense with his services and a replacement to be found.

Caravans

The rule, agreed in 1954, prohibiting the parking of caravans by members adjacent to the fisheries to be rescinded.

The Annual General Meeting 1964

The 85th AGM was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 5th 1964 following a dinner at 7.0 pm in the evening.

G Morris became the new President with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, L Marsden and F Butler as Vice Presidents. L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.

Other Council members were R Clough, WC Mellor, AC Main, TH Morris, JK Bray, NF Hastain and DJS Marsden

Council Meetings 1964

River Lune

Permission was granted for the Midlands Canoe Club to hold a slalom competition on the Lune in November 1964 provided they sought the approval of the Lancashire Rivers Board. The LRB refused permission for November but granted permission for January, February or March.

The cost of rental on the River Lune was rising. It was suggested that the combined subscription for joint Lune and Ribble should rise from £18/18/- to £25 per annum. The Lune Fishing Secretary, Mr Barnes, owned a length of fishing on this river and for a small rental from the MAA allowed free fishing by the members.

The Tarn

The supports for the boat house had sunk on one side. This was to be remedied when the boat house extension was constructed. This was to be done as soon as weather conditions permitted.

The Ribble

The Lancashire Rivers Board had notified the Association that more work was to be done on the river, they were to remove the Studfold bend, straightening the river and filling in the old river channel.

“Outside agencies caused most of the trouble on the river. In 1956 the Lancashire Rivers Board commenced the dredging and widening of the river at Studfold. From times immemorial there had been flooding at Studfold after heavy rain; this closed the road for a considerable distance.

An even greater upheaval came from the Rivers Board in late spring 1964. Something had to be done and the Board in their wisdom decided to straighten out the Ribble. Before 1964, going upstream, the river made an almost straight line towards Pen-y-gent until it reached the bend in the road just below the farm. There was at this corner a tremendously deep pool (called Studfold Bend). You could park your car by the side of the road and look over the wall and there was the river. It was there that the river turned a right angle to the west away from the road with a continuing deep pool for may be 100 yards where it then turned abruptly right again to go nearly north. All of this was very fishable and was, of course, full of fish. It would have been magnificent Salmon holding water in later years. The river continued northwards until it reached the bottom end of East Wind Reach (do they call it the Pipe Pool now?) where there was another good pool again just by the road side--- a miniature Studfold Corner. If you wanted some trout on a difficult day, this was one of the lengths, which could provide; although they were often rather dark in colour. No pre-notification was given to the club and the first indication was the arrival of a large yellow caterpillar tracked digger. It was a major job and it took several months. Put simply, the method used was to level the river bed so that the caterpillar could run up and down both the new river bed and the old river bed as if on the M1. Pools were filled with the dredging from the new working as the straight, shallow and featureless new river bed was completed. Small pools were left here and there in the old riverbed. These often had lots of emaciated trout trapped in them. Unfortunately this residue was only the tip of the iceberg since the majority of the fish had been killed by the machinery as the caterpillar tracks ran over the stones under which they were lying lay. It appeared that there was no effort to try and conserve the fish since the contractors seemed more versed in building roads than treating the environment with care. At the end they left a featureless straight shallow river bed with no pools or interesting bits, their real remit was to stop the flooding at Studfold. The Manchester Anglers' had lost a lot of fish and more importantly one of its best lengths of fishing. Compensation in the form of trout was given but they had nowhere to go and probably swam off to Settle.

Quoted from “Thoughts on Fishing, Maintenance of the River” by David Marsden, (see last Chapter in this book).

As a result of the Rivers Board activities, the new 10 year rental on the Deighton length was thought prohibitive because of the disruption to the fishing. The Ribble Secretary was to offer the Deighton Trustees between £20 and £30 per annum.

Lancashire Rivers Board

The Lancashire River Authority was set up by act of Parliament and would take over the Rivers Board.

The Annual General Meeting 1965

The 85th AGM was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday March 5th 1965 following a dinner at 7.0 pm in the evening.

L Marsden became the new President for the second time with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, F Butler and R Clough as Vice Presidents. L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.

The AGM was preceded by a **Special Meeting** to amend one of the rules of the Association. Several of the new members had been causing offence to the established member by not obeying the rules of the club. It was resolved that

“Nominations of new members: Every candidate for new membership shall be nominated in writing by two members, each of not less than 5 years membership, who shall be responsible for the qualification of the proposed member”

In his speech at the following AGM, Leonard Marsden, the new President, said that it was 25 years since he took an active interest in fishing and remarked that it was the practice for new members to remain on the waiting list before admittance to full membership. During his period as a member the former friendly social contact between members and their families had shown a noticeable decline and he expressed the wish that this could be re-established. He also said that he would like to see members taking a closer personal interest in the general maintenance of the Fisheries by helping to repair and build weirs and other work to enhance the general wellbeing of the fishery.

It was suggested by another member that members should make themselves available for work during the first two weeks in April.

The same member also referred to lower standards of behaviour by members recently and pointed out that every member had a responsibility to see that the rules of the Association were observed and also to satisfy themselves of the identity of other anglers while fishing our waters.

Council Meetings 1965

The Boat House

It was decided to replace the boat, if necessary with one of fibreglass. Members were asked not to leave litter in the boat house, a notice was put up to remind the Anglers

The Lune

It was decided that 'Ribble only' members could purchase up to 3 Day Tickets to fish for trout on the Lune at a cost of 10/- per ticket. This would apply only during March, April and May.

The Ribble

A complete inspection of the river at Studfold was made after the alterations to the river by the Rivers Board adversely affected fishing. The desirability of retaining the present tenancies in that area were discussed and at the next meeting it was agreed that the tenancies should be retain even if need be at an increased rental.

The 87th Annual General Meeting 1966

The AGM followed by a Council Meeting was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday March 3rd 1966.

Mr R Clough became the new President with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, J Barnes and LDJS Marsden as Vice Presidents.
L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.

Council Meetings 1966

The Ribble

It was agreed that local labour should be used to build weirs and mend stiles etc. 3 pairs of waders had been purchased for the labourers use.

Day Tickets

It was decided to increase the cost of the three Day Tickets available to each member to £1/10/- each for the Lune, for the Ribble 20/- each and for children 8 tickets at 2/- each.

River Watchers

The Thompson brothers were engaged to watch the river. They were given limited fishing facilities in return for services rendered. They were later commended for their efficient supervision.

The Hatchery

The Council decided that it was time for the MAA Holdings to sell the fish Hatchery and the land on which it stands.

Restocking

It was again decided to leave it to the Fishing Secretaries to decide when and how many fish to put into the Tarn, and Rivers Lune and Ribble.

500 6" - 7" trout were put into the Lune

1006 6" - 7" , 300 7" - 8" and 500 8" - 9" trout were put into the Ribble and the Tarn in October.

The Boat House

The boat house had been repaired and an extension for the use of anglers erected on the side of the older building. Some suitable plain furniture was to be installed.

Accrington Fishing Club.

Accrington Fishing Club, who had a small length of fishing water at Newhouses owned by Mr Tattersal, on the east bank opposite fishing owned by the Association, wanted to put a weir in the river. The reply to their Club was that "the MAA were not interested in carrying out developments of that part of the river which we prefer to leave in its natural state"

Lune Fishing

There had been an exceptional run of salmon and sea trout on the river Lune in the current year.

Illegal methods of fishing had been confirmed by the recovering of a large assortment of lead lures. The Lune Secretary circularised the members at the end of the season giving notice that any offenders caught would be expelled from membership of the Association. The Lune Keeper would be given a monetary reward should he apprehend any offender.

At the next meeting the Council were notified that a member had been found contravening the rules, and his membership had been forfeited.

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The 88th Annual General Meeting 1967

The AGM followed by a Council Meeting was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday March 3rd 1967

Mr J Barnes took over from Mr R Clough as the new President with AG Walker as Secretary/ Treasurer, LDJS Marsden and J Lee as Vice Presidents.
L Marsden as Ribble Fishing Secretary and J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary.



Council Meetings 1967

Lune Fishing

Disease was found prevalent in Salmon and Seatrout, the Rivers Authority were to set up a Committee to look into the problem. It was decided not to stock the river this year.

Ribble Fishing

The river Authority reported that they had finished works at Studfold so a claim for compensation for damage and disturbance to fishing rights was submitted by the MAA.

Pollution from the quarry was again occurring, the quarry owners, S.C.G. were again contacted.

The Ribble Secretary reported that so far the Ribble had been free of the prevalent fish disease.

The repair of the Stillages at the Tarn had been delayed by the consistently high water level at the Tarn

The Chief Inspector of Police at Settle had promised to give personal attention to any matters involving trespassers, certain honorary fishing permission had been given to him.

The Tarn

Weed was again causing a problem, the water level had been high all summer so dealing with the problem had been difficult.

Ladies Evening

A Ladies Evening had been held at the end of the 1966 season.

Council Meetings

The Ribble Secretary suggested that it would be helpful if some Council Meetings could be held at Horton during the Season. It was therefore decided to hold meetings in April and September at Horton. Later it was decided that according to the Association's Rule Book it would not be possible to hold meetings at Horton unless Rule 8 was amended. In fact the Rule does not state where meetings were to be held.

"The Council shall sit at such time as the President and Honorary Secretary shall deem necessary, in pursuance of these rules or otherwise, to call them together. Three members of the Council shall form a quorum."

The Annual General Meeting 1968

The AGM followed by a Council Meeting was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday March 3rd 1968

As the senior Vice President, David Marsden, would be abroad at the time of the AGM he did not wish to be considered for President so J Lee was appointed.

AG Walker remained as Secretary/ Treasurer

Leonard Marsden was Ribble Fishing Secretary, Assistant Secretaries JK Bray and WC Mellor.

J Barnes remained as Lune Fishing Secretary with Assistant Secretary R Hartley

Council Meetings 1968

Foot and Mouth Disease

Owing to the widespread outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease which prevented visits to the Ribble Fishery during the closed season it was not possible to arrange maintenance work and weeding of the Tarn could not be carried out.

As the outbreak abated it was left to Anglers' judgements regarding their residential proximity to infected areas. Fishing could begin as usual on 15th March.

Day tickets were withdrawn during the outbreak

The Lune

Great concern was shown by the Lune fishing members about the numbers of salmon caught by trawlers off Greenland and the harm this may do to the return of Salmon to our rivers.

Restocking the Lune

With the Lancashire Rivers Authority the Lune was restocked with 500 7"- 8" brown trout.

The Ribble

A trespasser was caught fishing the river with a forged ticket.

The Tarn

D.J.S. Marsden gave details of discussions he has had with the head of Dunsop Bridge Fish Hatchery who suggest that trout in the \tarn should be fed with pellets during the winter to avoid losses of fish due to a lack of food. It was considered desirable to give this a trial.

The Tarn Assistant Secretaries were authorised to spend up to £100 to obtain specialist advice on weed control.

New Fishing Waters

A number of members had asked whether the Association would consider the acquiring suitable trout water which was reasonably close to Manchester.

Reservoir, Longley, Macclesfield.

An inspection and discussion was held on the possibility of renting fishing at Ridegate reservoir near Macclesfield. The fishing would be on a 5 year lease. Fly fishing only is permitted and wading is not allowed. All expenses arising would have to be provided from additional subscription.

It was agreed to submit a tender at a rental of £200 per annum.

This fishing is not mentioned again in the minutes so it is assumed that the bid was not successful.

Membership

The membership now stood at

Lune and Ribble	30
Ribble	53
Non Fishing	3

The Tarn

The report which had been commissioned from E Birch of the Fishery Management Services advised restocking of the Tarn should be carried out in spring along with some other recommendations which were not detailed in the minutes.

The Holding Company

The Association held £2030 of the paid Share Capital of £2795 in the Manchester Anglers' Association (Holdings) Ltd.

The desirability of the Association acquiring the whole of the Share Capital was to be discussed again after professional advice had been obtained. The Association had ample cash resources to buy the remaining Share Capital.

Walter Pollard

Walter Pollard, long time River Bailiff died in July.

The Annual General Meeting 1969

The AGM followed by a Council Meeting was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday 28th February 1969 following a dinner at 7.15pm.

President was to be R Hartley

AG Walker remained as Secretary/ Treasurer

Leonard Marsden resigned from the Council but wished to remain as an ordinary fishing member. JK Bray was appointed in his place as Ribble Fishing Secretary.

J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary, R Hartley as Assistant Lune Fishing Secretary.

For more detail on why Leonard and later David Marsden resigned from the Council, please read the end of David Marsden's "Thoughts on Fishing at Horton"

Council Meetings 1969

Ribble Fishing Committee.

A Fishing Committee was set up to look after the River and Tarn

Lune Fishing

Heavy pollution of the Lune from the building of the M6 Motorway was causing concern.. Analysis showed no serious disability to fish life.

A new hut was purchased to replace one that had been washed away in a storm.

Ribble Fishing

At the September Meeting the report on the Ribble and Tarn was read by the Fishing Secretary.

112 fish had been taken so far this season. There were few more being caught so an emergency stocking of 50 Brown Trout was made.

The proposal to restock the Tarn with Rainbow Trout was approved and permission was obtained from the River Authority to extend the fishing season in the Tarn for Rainbow Trout until 31st October.

The chemical Diquat costing £6 was to be purchased to combat the growth of Canadian Pond Weed in one section of the Tarn, the River Authority permission had given permission.

A diseased Salmon was found near Horton Bridge so the Settle Fish Pas was temporarily closed to prevent further entry of diseased fish into the MAA waters.

Horton Beckside was becoming eroded, the landowner is responsible for the expense of the repair .

A letter from David Marsden was read out with reference to a possible claim of Common Land at Roe End. There was also a local report of the proposed sale of 27 yards of fishing on Brandt's Ghyll Beck.

Resignation

DJS Marsden also tendered his resignation from the Council and as a Trustee of the Holdings Company due to pressure of work. He wished to continue as an ordinary fishing member.

The Annual General Meeting 1970

The AGM followed by a Council Meeting was held at The Grand Hotel in Manchester on Tuesday 27th February 1970 following a dinner at 7.15pm.

President was to be AL Starkie, Vice Presidents J Lee and NF Hastain

AG Walker remained as Secretary/ Treasurer

JK Bray was appointed as Ribble Fishing Secretary.

JK Bray, J Lee and WC Mellor as Ribble Fishing Committee

J Barnes as Lune Fishing Secretary, R Hartley as Assistant Lune Fishing Secretary.

Council Meetings 1970

MAA Holdings

L Marsden was replaced as Trustees on the Holding Company by JK Bray.

DJS Marsden was replaced as Trustees on the Holding Company by R Hartley

A proposal was made to ask the Accountants to look into the advisability of the liquidation of the Holdings Company. There were Capital Gains implications in winding up the company. In the meantime outstanding shares held by members to be bought by the Association

The Tarn

A minimum size limit of 12" to be imposed and takable fish would be restricted to 2 brace per angler per day.

River Watcher

Mark Thompson's annual Honarium to be raised to £120 from 1.1.1970.

National Anglers' Council

The Association applied for membership of the N.A.C at an annual subscription of £5.

Ribble

There had been 11 weeks of low water in the river so it was expected that would be reflected in a lower total of fish taken during the season.

£200 had been received from G.C.S. (quarry) in compensation for the oil pollution in 1969.

An official objection was made to the Lancashire Rivers Board against the application by G.C.S. to abstract 60.000 gallons of water per day from the Ribble at a point above Horton Beck. The Association had notified the Ribble Fisheries Association.

The Tarn

240 Rainbow Trout and 37 Brown Trout had been taken from the Tarn with the average weight caught being in excess of that in recent years.

Canadian Pond Weed had been eliminated from the Tarn and it was proposed that the annual restocking of the Tarn be increased to 800 Rainbow Trout. This increased the cost of restocking the Ribble and the Tarn (including the Koppel length in lieu of rent) to approximately £340

The Boat House had been repaired and new iron stiles donated by the President A.L. Starkie were to be fitted and painted.