



## Chapter 7

1909—1913



### The Council for 1909

President  
Treasurer  
Hon Secretary  
Fishing Secretary

E.R. Austin  
Stanley Kneale  
P Glass  
R. Burn



Hand drawn and painted illustration, from the Manuscript Books.

In **February 1909**, Mr J.A. Hutton gave the first of two very interesting talks on how to tell the age and habits of a salmon by the rings on its scales. This was original scientific research which was published, as were a number of books he wrote on Salmon fishing which are still read today.

J. Arthur Hutton, who lived in Alderley Edge in Cheshire, loved to fish the river Wye in Herefordshire, and was President of the M.A.A in 1894, 1896 and 1897 and Club Secretary 1891 to 1893.

### *"Salmon Scales"*

*as Indicative of the Life History of the Fish.  
Scales retained throughout Life.*

"I must first ask you to accept it as definitely proved that a Salmon does not require new scales to meet the increase in growth of later years. Most of you know that one of the methods of distinguishing large Sea Trout from Grilse is the number of scales between the adipose fin and the median line. On the Salmon one finds from 10 to 12 rows of scales; on the Sea Trout very rarely 12 and generally 13 to 15. The number of scales on a Salmon is constant, and remains the same throughout life, irrespective of weight or age. It therefore follows that a Salmon of 20 or 40 pounds weight has no more scales than a fish of four or five pounds, or than the Smolt or Parr of a few ounces weight. The scales which cover the large fish, and which may be nearly half an inch in diameter, are those with which he was born, although originally they were tiny rudimentary centres, scarcely larger than a point of a needle. Probably new growth would occur to replace lost scales or to repair scars or wounds, but the fact remains that, generally speaking, the Salmon acquires no new scales, and consequently the latter must increase in size as the fish grows in length, girth and weight."

"On examining any scale with the microscope we find there is a rudimentary centre, more or less well marked, surrounded by a series of concentric rings or ovals at varying intervals. These rings, or rather ridges, represent the growth which is necessary to cover the annually increasing bulk, like the ring added by a tree for each year's growth, with however, this difference that the Salmon acquires a considerable number of rings or ridges every year. The question naturally arises, how is one to tell the age of a fish."



J.Arthur Hutton at Colcombe House, Hampton Bishop on the Herefordshire Wye in 1916.

## The River Lune

In **March 1910** the members of the M.A.A. received the following letter

“The Council has had the offer to rent a length of about four miles of the River Lune, between Low Gill and Sedburgh. The length contains a number of excellent sea trout and salmon pools. The sea fish commence running about July, and large quantities of sea trout have been taken out. There is no record of salmon but the nets at the mouth have been bought out and Skerton Weir made accessible to running fish at every high tide, it is hoped that the salmon may in time become an appreciable quantity.

The water has been visited by Mr Colin Mather and Mr Percy Glass, who are favourably impressed with the possibilities of the length. The north end of the water is 15 minutes walk from Low Gill station, and the bottom or south end about two miles from Sedburgh. There is excellent accommodation at The White Hart, Sedburgh, where there are 11 beds. Arrangements are in the process of being made for accommodation at the farm houses on the water.

The water has been taken for one year with the option of making the term into a further five years. The following members have undertaken to guarantee the cost for one year: Messrs. Lonsdale Broderick, Colin Mather, Percy Glass, T.A.Farron, S. Swire, W.B. Dendy, E. Radford: they are however willing and desirous that as large a body of the members as are disposed should participate.

Please say if you desire to be a at the Annual Subscription of Three Guineas, or less, according to the number of members joining.

The season opens on 1st March and closes for Trout on 1st October; for Sea Trout and Salmon on 1st November. Rod License for Trout, 2/6, for Sea Trout and Salmon 10/-”

The addition of the Lune fishery catered for those members who wished to fish for Salmon and Sea Trout. The report said that by widening the area and increasing the variety of its sporting waters it was hoped that the membership would show signs of a healthy and progressive increase. This was necessary as the costs to the Club were increasing.

Soon afterwards a message went out to the Anglers to say that a “Mr Bracken of Goodies, Firbank, Sedburgh, has now a garage for motor cars.” and that the rail fare for Angler’s Day Excursion tickets from Exchange Station in Manchester was 8s 4p.

The Angling Report for 1910 said that said that the fishing season from the sporting point of view, both at Horton and at Low Gill was a failure. The Council arranged for another season at Low Gill on trial, in the hope that the sport during the coming season would justify the Council in adding the Lune length to the waters of the Association.

1911 also proved to be a poor season, but 1912 at Horton was the second best that the M.A.A. had experienced and on the Lune 43 Sea Trout and 5 Salmon were caught, many were difficult to land. 473 Brown Trout ranging up to 1½ lbs were caught.



The caption to this photograph said; ‘View of the River Lune below Low Gill showing where the river used to be d - - - d and has been bl- - - d. The rocks have been blewed up and have gone down’. September 1910.

### Papers Read at the Meetings in 1910

|       |  |                                    |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|
| Feb   | “Pot Holes and Underground Streams<br>around Horton” with lantern slides   | Percy Glass                        |
| March | “Salmon Scales” second paper with lantern  | J.A. Hutton                        |
| April | Reception by the President (Mr Lonsdale Broderick)<br>to meet Mr and Mrs Austin and Family, prior to their<br>departure for Devonshire |                                    |
| Sept  | Summer Doings members’ evening   |                                    |
| Oct   | “Tasmania and its Trout” with lantern  | Percy Glass                        |
| Nov   | “The Natural Trout Fly” Natural Specimens  | Lionel West<br>(Fly Fishers’ Club) |
| Dec   | 32nd Annual Dinner   |                                    |

In **March**, Arthur Hutton read his second paper on Salmon Scales.

### “Salmon Scales”

*Excerpt from Part 2 The Colouring of the Parr, Smolt and Mature Fish.*

“Salmon, Sea Trout and fresh water Trout are closely allied and the immature fish are very similar in appearance, probably due to a protective colouring to suit their surroundings. The Parr is of much the same colouring as the young trout with red spots and with eight to twelve finger marks along the sides of a slaty blue colour. When it appears for migration, and reaches the smolt stage the scales become bright and silvery and the spots and the finger marks disappear. It would be interesting to know the cause of this change, which, I believe, is due to some alteration in the skin covering the scale, which causes an iridescent effect. In Mr Malloch's book illustrations are shown of Smolts with the scales removed from half the fish and whereas one half remain bright and silvery, on the other half, where the scales have been removed the red spots and finger marks are visible still, which would point to the early colouring being due to pigmentary cells on the surface of the body below the scales, and further that the scales during parr life are transparent and allow this pigmentary colouring of the body to be transmitted.

The mature fish when it first enters the river, at any rate in the early part of the year, is bright and silvery along the sides, with darker colouring along the back. it gradually becomes dull and more reddish in colour, and when the spawning season approaches, you find male fish absolutely brick red in colour with orange and red and discoloured blotches and spots all over the head and body. After spawning and before returning to the sea, the Kelts will often become as bright and as silvery as a fresh spring fish. I have never seen a satisfactory explanation of this change in any publication, but I have been informed by a friend that it largely if not entirely due to a change in the thin skin which covers the scales. As pointed out by Dr Noel Paton as soon as the salmon enters fresh water, there is a gradual transference of the fats from all parts of the body to the genital organs, which are in this way built up, with the consequence that the coating of the scales as it were, dries up, and the thin plates coalesce and lose their iridescent power or brightness. In the latter part of the year, as the spawning season approaches, the change also takes place in the sea, and consequently in the late autumn one may catch a fresh run fish covered in sea lice, but in fully developed spawning livery, in other words red.

After spawning a great restoration takes place in the digestive organs, the scales and other parts of the body. The coating of the scales recovers its iridescent power, and consequently the kelt again becomes bright and silvery. I do not pretend to any scientific knowledge of the question and only put forward the above suggested explanations of the changes in the colour of the scales of the Salmon and Kelts in the hope that it may lead others better equipped than I am, to fully investigate the subject.”

### Papers read in 1911

|       |   |                                     |
|-------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Jan   | A.G.M.  |                                     |
| Feb   | A Trip to Iceland (lantern)   | H. Lindley                          |
| March | Exhibition and discussion of the most ancient, the most interesting, the most useful and favourite books of members.. |                                     |
| April | Easter Doingsmembers' evening   |                                     |
| Sept  | Summer Doings members' evening  |                                     |
| Oct   | Chance Recollections of Eight Visits to Iceland<br>(Lantern)  | J.W. Sutcliffe                      |
| Nov   | The Artificial Fly for Angling  | Leonard West<br>(Fly Fishers' Club) |
| Dec   | 33rd Annual Dinner  |                                     |

**February** Mr H. Lindley gave an account of a holiday he had spent in Iceland.

“The journey was entered upon from Leith and after a brief stay at Thorshaven in the Faroe Islands, Reykjavik was reached, whence began the tour of the island. This was made on pony back over a rugged and precipitous country, and the itinerary included a visit to Thingvalla, the Icelandic counterpart of the Manx Tynwald Hill; a visit to the Geysers during which the party was fortunate in seeing the great geyser ‘spouting freely’; and a journey to the celebrated Susthellin caves. Thence the return journey was by way of Kalmanstunga, Husafell, Grund and Madrafil, to Reykjavik, where the tour ended. Mr Lindley had to tell of many interesting incidents by the way, which increased the charm of his recital, while the beautiful series of lantern slides exhibited, excited the admiration and added to the pleasure of his audience.”

From **The Manchester City News**, Feb. 22nd 1911

**October** Whether or not it was a coincidence, in October the members were entertained with a talk by Mr J.W. Sutcliffe on Fishing in Iceland. The paper was illustrated with a large number of slides from photographs taken by Mr Sutcliffe and his friends.

#### “Some Chance Recollections of Eight Summers in Iceland”

“Anglers nowadays wander far afield in search of salmon and trout, but probably few men have so thoroughly explored a country as Mr Sutcliffe seems to have explored Iceland. The entire coastline, lakes, mountains and rivers have been visited during his eight trips. Icelandic travel appears to have some hardships and the voyage, some small adventures, but quite apart from the novelty of utilising the springs for laundry purposes and travelling on pony back, the sport enjoyed was much superior to anything to be obtained in this country. The water was extremely clear, clearer in fact than any English stream, with a very rapid current. The number of salmon, grilse and sea trout taken on the different trips was given, and made envious those anglers who are perforce compelled to get their fishing nearer home. Iceland possesses many claims as an ideal holiday place, with its fascinating quietness and long summer days unharassed by news of the busy world.”

From **The Manchester City News**, Oct 21st 1911

At the **March** meeting the usual talk was replaced by a discussion on Angling books. Members were asked to bring any interesting Angling Books and to be prepared to take part in the discussion. Mr J Lea, the Literary Secretary produced a collection of books ranging from a reprint of Dame Juliana Berner's "Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle" to Hardy's Annual. The members who exhibited the various volumes gave a short explanation of the manner in which the books came into their possession and the reasons for their selections. The meeting was said to have been very enjoyable and instructive.

### **'Easter and Summer Doings'**

Members were asked to tell the meetings about their fishing experiences at the April and September meetings. One member described Llanwrtyd in Wales as a very comfortable angler's resort in April, May and September where the sport was good. At Horton, although the wind was described as sufficient to blow the whiskers off the face and flies off the cast, conditions were excellent. Another member had been to the Isle of Man.

At the **September** meeting a member showed lantern slides of the Horton and Lune Fisheries and also some of the lochs near Achiltibuie in Rosshire. There was a discussion on the fact that when the sea trout were running, the brown trout were seldom found. Achiltibuie was recommended as great enough to repay one for the trouble of the long journey. There were some seventeen lochs which could be fished, and during his stay the speaker had good sport with both trout and sea trout. Another member was pleased to have caught had caught a trout of 7½ lbs in the Ribble.

At the **November** meeting Mr Leonard West of St Helens gave a talk on "The Artificial Fly for Trout". He described the making of the flies, the sorts of materials to use to suit the fishing conditions and showed examples and coloured plates to illustrate his talk.

## **The Annual Dinner December 1911**

The City News reported on the M.A.A. Annual Dinner.

"The President, Mr Farron's opening words were followed by Mr Backhouse, a former secretary of the Ribble Conservancy Board who spoke of the many miles of water now controlled by the Manchester Anglers and the extraordinary improvement owing to careful stocking which had taken place during the years he had known the Ribble.

Canon Richardson proposed the health of the visitors. He said that he had the head of a red deer and of a salmon decorating his hall at home but that the hour and a half spent in catching the salmon would always be remembered by him as the best bit of sport he had ever had in his life.

Some excellent glees were given by Mr T. Noble and his friends, the rendering of 'On the Banks of Allan Water' being particularly effective. Mr A. Wardley sang several songs. Mr Broadbent, a member, sang "We'll reel 'em in" and his brother, Mr Broadbent of Blackburn, who with Mr Sharpe responded for the visitors, told some amusing anecdotes"



Toasts.

THE KING.

THE MANCHESTER ANGLERS'  
ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESS TO ANGLING.

OUR VISITORS.

Menu.

Hors d'Euvres.

Clear Julienne.  
Thick Ox Tail.

Boiled Turbot. Lobster Sauce.  
Boiled Potatoes.

Snipe Pudding.

Saddle of Southdown Mutton. Richelieu.

Roast Turkey and York Ham.  
Salade.

Cream Cakes.

Vanille Ices.  
Wafers.

DESSERT.

**The Annual Report for 1911** included a list of the books in the M.A.A. Library which was housed in a bookcase at the Grand Hotel where the monthly meetings were held and where books could be borrowed

### Catalogue of the books in the Library, January 1912.

|  |   |      |
|--|---|------|
| Alphabet of Angling                                      | James Rennie  | 1833 |
| Amateur Angler's Days in Dovedale, An                    | Marston   | 1887 |
| Amateur Poacher, The                                     | The Gamekeeper at Home                                  |      |
| Angler's Paradise, An                                    | Armistead   |      |
| Angler's Guide, The                                      | T.F. Slater   | 1814 |
|  | (Bound together with fly fishing)                       |      |
| Angler's Souvenir.                                       | Fishers. Edited by G. Christopher                       |      |
| Angler in Ireland, An                                    | 2 Vols 1834   |      |
| Angler Naturalist, The                                   | Cholmondeley Pennel                                     |      |
| Angling Handbook   | Ephemera  | 1848 |
| Angling Holidays   | Godney  | 1896 |
| Angling Sketches   | Lang  | 1891 |
| Angling Days   | Jonathon Dade   | 1895 |
| Art of Angling, The                                      | R Brooks  | 1774 |
| Art of Angling, The with M.S. notes                      | Bowlker of Ludlow                                       | 1829 |
| Art of Angling, The with M.S. notes                      | Bowlker of Ludlow                                       | 1839 |
| Badminton Library, The                                   | Edited by Cholmondeley Pennel                           |      |
| Vol 1 Trout and Salmon                                   |   |      |
| Vol 2 Pike and Coarse Fish                               |   |      |
| Biographical Catalogue of English Writers on Angling, An | J Westwood and J Satchell                               |      |
| Bibliotheca Piscatoria                                   | London  | 1883 |
| Book of the all-round Angler, The                        | J. Bickerdyke   |      |
| Book of the Pike   | H.C. Pennell  | 1865 |
| British Fresh Water Fishes                               | Haughton, 2 volumes                                     |      |
| Broads and Rivers of Norfolk and Suffolk                 | G.C. Davies   | 1882 |
| By Hook and by Crook                                     | Fraser Sandeman   |      |
| By Meadow and Stream                                     | Marston   | 1896 |
| Caution to Anglers, A                                    | W.C. Stewart  |      |
| Chalk Streams, Minor Tactics                             | Skues   |      |
| 2 copies   |   |      |
| Complete Angler's Vade Mecum, The                        | Capt. Williamson  | 1808 |
| Complete Angler, The. Thorpes Edition de luxe No 4       | Izaak Walton  | 1911 |
| Craven and NW Highlands, The                             | H. Speight  |      |
| Coarse Fish  | C.H. Wheeley  | 1897 |
| Days of my Life  | Bickerdyke  | 1895 |
| Dovedale Revisited                                       | Marston   | 1902 |
| Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice                   | F.M. Halford F.I.S.                                     |      |
| Fish and Fishing   | J.J. Manley   |      |
| Fisheries Exhibition, The                                | Official Publication and Essays                         |      |
| Fishing and Fishers                                      | J. Paul Taylor  |      |
| Flies (old in new dresses)                               | C.H. Walker   |      |
| Floating Flies and how to dress them                     | F.M. Halford  |      |
| Fosters Scientific Angler                                |   |      |
| Fly Fishing  | C.F. Harris (Bound together<br>with The Angler's Guide) |      |
| Fly Fishing and Trolling, A True Treatise on             | Wm Shipley  | 1838 |
| Francis Francis Book on Angling                          |   |      |
| Game Fishing of Northern States                          | R.B. Rooservelt   | 1884 |
| George Doggett, Keeper                                   | P.M. Mules M.D.   |      |
| Giant Fishes of Florida                                  | J. Turner Turner  |      |
| Grayling, The Book of the                                | T.M. Pritt  | 1888 |
|  | (2 copies large paper and small)                        |      |
| Handbook of Angling for Scotland                         | J. Robertson  |      |
| Handy Guide to Dry Fly Fishing                           | Cotswold Isys   |      |
| Handy Guide to Fish Culture                              | Armistead   | 1897 |
| Harry Druidale, Fisherman from Manxland to England       | Henry Cadman  |      |



|   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| Harvest of the Sea, The   | Bertram                                     |      |
| History of British Fishes, Coloured Plates                      | Couche 4 Voumes                             |      |
| History of Howietown, The                                       | S.J.R. Gibson Maitland                      |      |
| I go a-fishing  | Prime                                       |      |
| Improved British Angler, The                                    | Robert Huish                                | 1835 |
| Letters to Young Sea Fishers                                    | Bickerdyke                                  | 1898 |
| Lochs and Loch Fishing  | Hamish Stuart                               | 1898 |
| Log of a Fisherman and Zoologist                                | Buckland                                    |      |
| Manuscript Magazine of the<br>Manchester Angler's Association   | 10 Volumes                                  |      |
| My Life as an Angler  | W.H. Henderson                              |      |
| Natural History of British Fishes                               | Frank Buckland 1 Vol. London                | 1881 |
| Newcastle Fisher's Garland for North Country Anglers            | Edited by Joseph Crawhill<br>Newcastle 1864 |      |
| Pike and Perch  | A. Jardine                                  | 1898 |
| Piscatory Eclogues  | Phineas fletcher                            | 1771 |
| Practical Angler, The   | Stewart                                     |      |
| Rambles by the Ribble   | Dobson                                      |      |
| Rod Fishing in Clear Waters                                     | Henry Wade                                  | 1860 |
| Salmonia  | Sir H. Davy                                 | 1828 |
| Salmon, The   | A. Russell                                  | 1864 |
| Salmon, Sea Trout &c  | P.D. Mallock                                | 1910 |
| Salmon Problems   | Willis Bund                                 |      |
| Salmon and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska                           | S Jefferson, F Moser, U.S. Navy             |      |
| Sea and Coast Fishing   | Affalo                                      | 1910 |
| Sea Fisherman, The  | Wilcock                                     |      |
| Season in Sunderland, A   | J.E. Edwards Moss                           | 1888 |
| Secrets of Angling, The   | A.S. Moffat                                 | 1865 |
| Secrets of Angling, The   | J(ohn) D(ennys) Esq                         | 1613 |
| Shifts and Expedients of Camp Life                              | Lord  |      |
| Shooting and Fishing Trip                                       | Wildfowler                                  | 1878 |
| Study of Fishes   | Dr Gunther                                  |      |
|   | 1 Vol. London                               | 1880 |
| Sport   | W. Bromley Davenport                        | 1886 |
| Sport with Rod and Gun in American Woods and Waters             | 2 Vols.                                     |      |
| Sunshine Holiday, On a  | Marston                                     | 1897 |
| Toronto Past and Present  | Mulvanly                                    |      |
| Treatyse on Fyssinge with an Angle (reprint)                    | Dame Juliana Berners                        |      |
| Trout Fishing by W. Earl Hodgson<br>with illustrations of Flies | By Mortimer Mempes                          |      |
| Trout Fishing in New Zealand                                    | W.H. Spackman                               |      |
| True Enjoyment of Angling                                       | Phillips                                    | 1843 |
| Underground Waters at Ingleton, etc.                            |   |      |
| Wonderful Trout, The  | J. Harvey brown                             | 1898 |
| Year of Liberty, A  | Pritt                                       |      |

In addition to the foregoing, there are a photographic Scrap album, Photographic Portrait Album, Newspaper Cuttings Scrap Book and a Picture Scrap Book, which are laid on the table at each monthly meeting

Many books, including the library of Samuel Swire, one of the members, were added to the Library over the years. Then in 1927, when the Grand Hotel could no longer house the collection, the book case and books were taken to the office of the Literary Secretary, T.G.Russell. This made it difficult for club members to borrow the books. Eventually, after the books and bookcase had been moved from office to office, the collection became such an embarrassment that they were sold in the 1950s to a Manchester Angler at a token price.

## Programme for 1912

|       |  |                  |
|-------|--|------------------|
| Jan   | A.G.M.   |                  |
| Feb   | “Trout Fishing in Arctic Waters”                 | Abel Heywood     |
| March | “Recent Discoveries in the Life History of Fish” | Dr J.T. Jenkins  |
| April | Easter Doings                                    | members’ evening |
| Sept  | Summer Doings                                    | members’ evening |
| Oct   | “Fishing in Shetland “                           | A. Smith         |
| Nov   | “Memories of Fish and Fishermen”                 | Canon Richardson |
| Dec   | 34th Annual Dinner                               |                  |

**February 1912** Abel Heywood gave a talk on fishing in Arctic waters. Mr Heywood had visited Norway for fishing on many occasions and had previously given talks about his adventures. On this occasion he went with a friend to the far north of Norway to the Lofoten Islands where the Gulf Stream provides a warmer climate than would have been expected from its latitude.

### Fishing in the Loffodens

“A February Meeting of the Manchester Angler’s Association was held on Tuesday evening, the President Mr S. Swire, in the chair.

Mr Abel Heywood read a paper entitled “**Vesteraalen**” being an account of sea trout fishing experiences in the Loffeden Islands. It is about six days journey, and Skagen, where the party landed is about 150 miles within the Arctic Circle. Saltvand has a good reputation for it contains a good many monster trout, which at times rise very readily to the fly, but this time, shortly after their arrival the weather turned cold and was very disappointing compared with their experience of the previous year. The big fish were scarce, but on the last day they soon had evidence that things had changed for the better, and Mr Heywood got two trout of three pounds each, one of two and a quarter pounds, one of two pounds, and a char of one and a quarter pounds. His friend on the same day got four good fish, the largest being four pounds weight.

Just as Saltvand was disappointing so was Skjorisen, for although quantities of sea and brown trout of small size could be got, the big ones were scarce. This lake is not only subject to the irruption of the sea, but there is a very rapid growth of floating, apparently unattached weed which makes the landing of big fish almost impossible. If the fish runs through the forest of this terrible stuff, he gathers weight against the line which he can successfully jerk and pull, and you are sure to part company with him, and then find your tackle hopelessly entangled with this horrible clinging green stuff.

Other lakes fished were Skaalbreck and Vea Vand, and Ringstad Vand, and they wound up the trip with a day trollong for pollak.”

The Manchester City News



Images from the internet

## The Report of the Fishing Committee for the 1912 Season

“Your Committee is glad to be able to report that the anticipation of the law of averages in connection with the weather contained in the last report, and the consequent promise of good sport were both fully realised during the season 1912. In place of the drought and constant low water of the previous three seasons there was frequent rain, and the river at Horton was reported to be in “good ply” on 98 of the 199 days comprising the season.

Forty members visited Horton and fished in the aggregate of 348 days. Three members were successful to the extent of over 100 fish each, whilst 12 members took over 50 fish each. One member took 43 fish from the Tarn, which must surely be a record as it exceeds many a yearly total in days gone by, and serves to show the improvement in the sport to be obtained in the Tarn.

On occasion the stretch from Ribblehead to Selside is by no means to be despised. A basket of 28 good fish to say nothing of a further lesser ones, returned to the river, is not a bad appetiser for the angler’s midday lunch.

Members will be pleased to know that the new fishing lease has been completed, and practically the whole of the river from Ribblehead to Helwith Bridge is in the control of the Association. The sole exception consists of the fishing attached to the Crown Inn, of which Mr John Heseletine is the licensee. Mr John Heseltine having declined to let this fishing to the Association it will be necessary for members to note that it consists of one field on each bank next to and immediately above New Inn Bridge, one field on the right bank immediately below the bridge, and one field also on the right bank from the Rockpool to Whit Beck. From a fishing point of view the matter is of little importance, but the Committee was anxious to obtain an unbroken length for the use of members.

The season on the Lune was much better than in 1911. The salmon and sea trout fishing however was not so good, as the state of the water and the head of fish observed in the river would seem to have warranted. Speaking generally, the variety of fishing afforded by this stretch of the Lune and the harming neighbourhood are greatly appreciated by the members using the water. The most useful flies for March and April were Snipe and Purple, Winter Brown, Blue Dun, Needle Brown and on occasional days, March Brown. Amongst the greater range available in May, the Olive Dun was most successful, Snipe and Purple and Crimson Brown completed the trio. The Iron Blue Dun and others of usual general flies in demand like Yellow Partridge and Checkwing did very little. Between the 12th and 18th July, in low water and bright weather, the Red Ant was very useful. The Olive Dun finished the season as first favourite.

On the Tarn the two best flies were Wickham’s Fancy and Greenwell’s Glory.”



### Papers read at the meetings in 1913

|       |                                       |   |
|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Feb   | 'The Poets in Angling'                | Mr Abel Heywood                               |
| March | 'Fisheries of Bengal'                 | Dr J Travis Jenkins<br>Lancs and NW Fisheries |
| April | 'Salmon Fisheries of the Yukon'       | Mr Brady, ex-Governor of Alaska               |
| Sept  | 'Summer Doings' members' evening      |   |
| Oct   | 'The Songs of the Manchester Anglers' | Mr P Burn                                     |
| Nov   | 'Fishing in out of the way places'    | Mr Robert Godby                               |

#### **March 'The Fisheries of Bengal'**

The Manchester Courier reported on 19th March that Dr J. Travis Jenkins, of the Lancashire and North Western Fisheries, gave a lecture the members of the M.A.A. on the results of his investigations into the fishery resources of the province of Bengal.

"In 1908 he was invited by the Bengal Government to report on the kinds of fish prevalent and to advise generally upon the methods to be adopted in order to improve the fish supply of the province. The work was divided into three main portions — exploration at sea, in the estuaries and in the rivers. Four different sea fishing grounds were finally located and the characteristics of each were described.

Descriptions were given of the methods which were adopted when carrying out the investigations and also of the various kinds of boats and nets used by the natives and particulars regarding the various species of fish found in each locality. From the purely angling point of view, the mahseer is the only fish which provides sport. Among the specimens of fish taken by Dr Jenkins during his visit were numerous varieties which were hitherto unsuspected as being inhabitants of the Bengal fishing grounds.

The lecture was beautifully illustrated by means of a large number of lantern slides taken by the lecturer and from drawings made by experts from the specimens obtained during the expeditions."

#### **April 'Salmon Fisheries of the Yukon'**

The Manchester City News reported that Mr A Brady, the Ex-Governor of Alaska, gave a lecture on the salmon fisheries of the Yukon River and of the large canning establishments and works which are connected with the industry.

"Known at one time as 'Seward's Folly' Alaska has annually more than repaid her purchase price in salmon alone. Some idea of the enormous extent to which the trade has grown is found from the statement that in 1911 the catch amounted to forty-four million fish weighing nearly 208 million pounds. Salmon are found up to the heads of all the rivers and the operations of netting, principally by seine nets are so great that at one haul as many as 80,000 salmon have been taken.

Alaska embraces an area of 591,000 square miles, the climate is equable, the rainfall is heavy and the south in particular is very pleasant. The harbours are open all the year round and in the near future there is every certainty that its industries will be very largely extended when better facilities for transport by rail and sea have been established.

Mr Brady gave some particulars of his numerous trips all over the country and of his observations of seals, bears and other animals. His remarks covered a wide range, dealing with witchcraft, hunting, fishing, habits of the natives, industries, gold fields and the wonderful appliances which have been found in use in distant settlements for dealing with the difficulties met with in transit and trade.

The lecture was illustrated with a large number of lantern slides taken from photographs by himself when on his official trips.

There was a good attendance at the meeting. At the usual dinner which preceded it, those present partook of a salmon weighing twenty pounds which had been sent for the occasion by one of the members who was away fishing on the Wye, and by whom it was killed."

## February      ‘The Poets in Angling’

Abel Heywood gave a talk to the meeting in which he quoted from poems and songs which had been inspired by fishing. The following is the report from the City News on 22nd March 1913.

“One verse in particular was written by a contemporary of Isaac Walton who quoted it in his ‘Complete Angler’. It had been arranged for two tenors and a bass. Abel Heywood said that “for some years it was our custom at our Annual Dinners to have this song, for we had many members then who could and would sing.”

Man’s life is but vain, for ‘tis subject to pain  
And sorrow and short as a bubble;  
‘Tis a hodge-podge of business and money and care,  
And care and money and trouble.

But we’ll take no care when the weather proves fair,  
Nor will we vex though it rain;  
We’ll banish all sorrow’ and sing ‘till tomorrow’  
And angle and angle again.

“Mr Heywood’s interesting talk concluded with some verses which he said “have some interest for this Association as they were written before we came into existence, but it was on the excursion recorded therein that the gathering of anglers, which soon became the Manchester Angling Association, was in a very casual way first mooted.”

The poem was entitled ‘Crook Inn’ and began:

### ‘Crook Inn’

Three foolish fellows, anglers all,  
Once went to fish the Tweed,  
Sam Buckley and A Heywood,  
And a man named David Reid;  
And to catch some jolly baskets full,  
They one and all agreed.

“Their journey to Moffat town by train and on foot, o’er moor and fell to the solitary inn at Crook is described in humorous strains, as is their fishing from morn to eve, the poem concluding;

The sum of their week’s labours may  
In scanty words be told.  
Sam Buckley got ten pounds of fish,  
The others — well — were sold;  
But the fish they’d missed, of course, were more  
Than caught by twenty fold.

Come back, those weary anglers  
From fishing of the Tweed —  
Sam Buckley and A Heywood,  
And the man called David Reid.  
But they never caught their baskets full,  
On that they all agreed.”

## October            ‘The Songs of the Manchester Anglers’

At the meeting in October Percy Burn talked about the fishing songs which his father, the late Mr Robert Burn, had written into his personal note book.

The notification of the meeting said that as a musical evening was an unusual feature of the winter meetings, it was hoped that members would bring their friends with them. A number of the songs were sung at that meeting.

Some of the songs which are contained in previous chapters of this History, were written by members of the M.A.A. Robert Godby in particular wrote many of the songs including;

|   |      |                                 |
|---|------|---------------------------------|
| ‘The Fish that Broke the shank I had from Farlow’ | air, | ‘Monte Carlo’                   |
| ‘The Scientific Angler’                           | air, | ‘Polly Perkins.’                |
| ‘The Analyst’s Lament’                            | air, | from the Mikado                 |
| ‘The Bonnie Brown Trout’                          | air, | ‘The Roast Beef of old England’ |
| ‘The Tempter’                                     | air, | ‘Auld Robin Gray’               |
| ‘The Fallen Ang(e)l-er’                           | air, | ‘Tit Willow’ (Mikado)           |
| ‘Experientia docet’                               | air, | from ‘Patience ‘ 1890           |
| ‘Come Bring Your Rods’                            | air, | ‘John Peel’                     |
| ‘The Contented Angler’                            | air, | ‘Here’s to the Man’             |
| ‘Here’s to the Rod’                               | air  | ‘Here’s to the Maiden’          |
| ‘The Oldest of Crafts’                            | air, | ‘At the fall of the year’       |
| ‘Nil Desperandum’                                 | air, | ‘At the dawn of the day ‘       |
| ‘The Angling Englishman’                          |      |                                 |

### “The Contented Angler”

Contentment I give you and all that it brings  
To the Angler who’s fully decided  
To catch what he can and be thankful that things  
Are such as his luck has provided.  
Some miss a good rise and then swear at their flies,  
Ever ready to seek an excuse;  
While others don’t play their fish the right way,  
Yet they wonder the creature breaks free.

Chorus:

But here’s to the man who is keen on his sport,  
Who never lets patience or temper run short,  
Contented and happy though nothing be caught  
We’ll pledge him in wine when fishermen dine.

One tries a wrong fly, and he yet wonders why,  
All the trout do not greedily take it.  
Yet ask the same “feller” to eat your umbrella,  
And just note his head how he’ll shake it.  
Then why is it right, if his own appetite  
Of the proffered umbrella fights shy.  
To blame the poor trout if he turns up his snout  
At a wholly incongruous fly.

Chorus

Some Anglers I fear, though I hope none are here,  
Treat their sport in a manner half hearted;  
And think that they should see an exact £. s. d.  
For the guinea with which they have parted.  
To such I would say “with such feelings away,  
That is not the true spirit of sport.  
No sportsman is he, who will measure his fee  
By the price of the fish he has caught.

Chorus

In 1891 the after-dinner songs at the Annual Dinner were considered to be the highlight of the evening. “Here’s to the Rod” by Robert Godby (printed in the Yorkshire weekly Post 28/12/1890), was sung to the air “Here’s to the Maiden”

### “Here’s to the Rod”

Here’s to the rod, and you’ll bear it in mind,  
‘Tis the rod of the angler I sing of—  
Not Solomon’s switch that leaves traces behind,  
That memory harbours the sting of.

(Chorus)

; Drink what you like, drink as you wish,  
But fill up your glasses and drink like a fish.

Here’s to the Reel, with its music so dear,  
What melody ever was sweeter  
Than the rollicking whirr that entrances the ear,  
And lights up our every feature.

(Chorus)

Here’s to the Fly, with its body of hurl,  
And the wings that so neatly invest it;  
And here’s to the health of the dear little girl  
Whose fingers so daintily dressed it.

(Chorus)

Here’s to the Creel, and the Net, and the Gaff,  
And whatever pertains to the angle;  
And as for the man who refuses to quaff,  
He’s fit from a gibbet to dangle.

(Chorus)

Here’s to the trout so deliciously plump,  
Be he gillaroo, Leven or yellow,  
All anglers will dub him a jolly old trump,  
Which means, I am told, a good fellow.

(Chorus)

Here’s to the angler of every land,  
An Herculean toast you will think it,  
But while we’ve a leg upon which we can  
stand,  
We’ll strain every muscle to drink it.

(Chorus)

### National Angling Competition

A National Angling Competition was held at Lochleven each year and was attended by representatives from the Manchester Anglers’ Association. For a number of year the competition was attended by Mr O. Mackenzie and Rev C.P. Roberts. In 1883 Mr Mackenzie caught 10 fish and won the prize for the M.A.A.

In 1913 the Council recorded with great pleasure that “Mr G. Norris Midwood for the M.A.A. was successful in securing the prize for the heaviest fish at the Annual Fly Fishing Competition at Loch Leven”.





Illustration from 'Opian Halieutics' in Volume 10 of the Manuscript Books