

Chapter 9



1929 – 1938



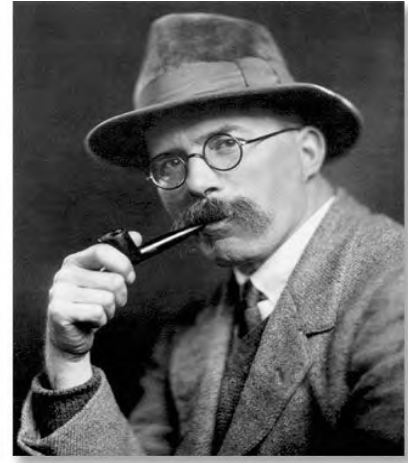
The Council for 1929

President	W Haslam Cross
Treasurer	R B Martin
Hon Secretary	F Archer Gillies
Lune, Fishing Secretary	Thomas A Farron
Ribble, Fishing Secretary	Wilfred Barnes
Librarian and Literary Secretary	T G Russell



Illustration by F.W. Townson from Volume 3 of the M.A.A. Manuscript Books

Arthur Ransome



Arthur Ransome was born in Leeds on 18th January, 1884. He attended preparatory school and then later went to Rugby School (where he lived in Lewis Carroll's study room) but did not entirely enjoy the experience. Ransome was a reluctant student and although he attended Yorkshire College for a year studying chemistry, he abandoned the college and went to London to become a writer. There he scraped a living writing stories and articles for various literary journals.

In the summer of 1913 he was commissioned to write an English guide to St Petersburg and then, with the outbreak of the First World War, Ransome was recruited by the Daily News to report on the Eastern Front. After the Russian Revolution, Ransome remained in the country and became friendly with Vladimir Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders. His reports provided a sympathetic view of the revolution and when he arrived back in England in 1919 he was arrested by the police. After being interviewed by Sir Basil Thomson, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Ransome was released having convinced the authorities that he was not a communist revolutionary.

While in England he wrote *Six Weeks in Russia* (1919), an account of the revolution and an explanation for the signing of the Brest-Litovsk treaty. This so upset the Foreign Office that they refused him permission to leave the country, and it was only with the help of C. P. Scott, Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, that he was able to get his passport back and return to Russia. For the next five years Ransome reported on Russia for both the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Observer* and also wrote the book, *The Crisis in Russia* (1921). In 1924 Ransome married, Evgenia Shelepin, Leon Trotsky's former secretary.

Together they returned to the UK and settled in the Lake District, living first in the Winster Valley. Here he became a friend of W.G. Collingwood, writer artist and secretary to John Ruskin. Collingwood lived at Lanehead, beside Coniston Water. Ransome's favourite childhood book had been W. G. Collingwood's *Thorstein of the Mere*, which was set around Coniston.

In 1929 Ransome began writing novels for children, including his best known book *Swallows and Amazons*. Although not immediately successful, his books eventually became best-sellers and are still loved today. Arthur Ransome died on 3rd June 1967. In 1990 the Arthur Ransome Society was started to celebrate both Ransome's life and his work .

Titles by Arthur Ransome include:

Rod and Line 1929
Swallows and Amazons 1930
Swallowdale 1931
Peter Duck 1932
Winter Holiday 1933
Coot Club 1934
Pigeon Post 1936
Six Weeks in Russia 1919
The Crisis in Russia 1921
Arthur Ransome
Rod and Line (3)
Arthur Ransome

Arthur Ransome wrote an article for the Manchester Guardian about his visit to the Tarn at the time of the eclipse of the sun on 29th June 1927. This was later published in his book 'Rod and Line'.

Fish and the Eclipse

Fish, during the eclipse, were rather disappointing. Their reactions to it were entirely negative, and as, both before and after the eclipse, their positive activity was not great, such difference in behaviour as was caused in them by the eclipse was less noticeable than it might have been. During previous eclipses it had been observed that cattle stopped feeding and the birds, mistaking the approaching shadow for evening, flew to their roosting places. Hens are said to be much more worried by such phenomena. I had a sort of hope that fish would show their feelings in some remarkable way, and, in spite of the previous testimony on the behaviour of animals of other kinds, had somehow allowed the optimism that is as important to the fisherman as his line to persuade me that the trout would show their interest by coming to the top of the water. I had thought the Astronomers-Royal of the Fish would be about in prominent places, and that I might catch one and put him in a glass case with a diagram of the obscured sun. I could find no mention of the effect of the eclipse on fish, but if cattle stopped feeding that would not necessarily mean that the fish would do the same, and if birds flew to their roosting places that would seem to mean that they thought night was upon them, and, if fish should reason in the same way, there might at 6-24 in the morning of June 29 (1927) be a very satisfactory Evening Rise.

In any case, it was my business to go and see, so I broke all the rules by being on the water of the tarn by 5-30 in the morning, thinking that, as there is to be no other such eclipse for some seventy years, I was not likely to break the rules in this way again, and could almost count on being forgiven for a first offence. In the valley I had left great quantities of human beings who were being affected by the eclipse in different ways. Between Settle and this place, at that early hour, I had heard mouth organs, accordions, and at least one brass band. I had seen men walking up the hills as fast as if they wished to escape the shadow. I had seen other men practicing for looking at the sun by looking through smoked glass at the young women who accompanied them. I had, however, seen that a great many people were making use of the eclipse for their own livelihood. They were trying to entice motor-cars into fields for their own profit. They were, at this unusual time, doing a roaring trade in lemonade and petrol. The eclipse was giving them an improved chance of making a living, and they were grabbing at the chance with both hands. The fish, I thought, would probably do the same. But, just then, I saw a ginger cat going home in the dawn and remembered that, whereas the human beings had foreknowledge of the coming shadow, the cat had none, or it would have lurked out in the fields to spring in the shadow of the moon on a startled rabbit. The trout would be like the cat, not like the human beings, in that the darkness and the shadow would come upon them unawares.

A flock of geese moved protesting from the tarn as I arrived. It was, of course, quite light. There was hardly a breath of wind. Here and there were quiet rings on the water, there were big clouds over the Yorkshire hills, but among them open spaces dazzling with the glow of the rising sun. I put up my rod with the sort of cast that I should put up for an evening rise and, with an occasional pull at the oars to help, drifted down the tarn, wetting my flies as I drifted and wondering what it was the fish were seemingly close under but not on the surface of the water. (I found out, after I had packed up to go away, that they were taking swimming nymphs.) it was very cold, and I landed and looked for a meadow pipit's nest and walked to keep warm. At 5-40 I saw a good splashing rise and a fish come half out of the water. The sun showed through the cloud like a brass saucer, out of which some mad hatter had taken a bite. A wind came up, I pulled into the middle of the tarn. Fish were still feeding, and I caught a small one under half a pound who went back, not to be deprived of the experience that was coming, but, though coming so soon, was so little foreshadowed. The light was waning, but not much more noticeably than it often does under a thunder-cloud. The geese, up on the hillside, moved off rapidly. Three human beings showed on the skyline far above me. The sheep stopped feeding and moved restlessly about in little groups. Fish still rose. Then the speed of events seemed to quicken. Everything went suddenly dark. The noise of the curlews, pewits, and small upland birds stopped. There was absolute silence, and it was as if a roof had suddenly been put over the tarn. I had a glimpse of the shrouded sun, but no attention for it, casting carefully in places where a few moments before the fish had been rising, and watching and listening for the movement of fish. The tarn was dead. I saw no rise and heard no rise. It was exactly like fishing a pool in a river over which a fisherman has inadvertently moved his own shadow. That, I think, is what the eclipse seemed to the trout. it was the sudden passing of a tremendous shadow, the shadow not of a cloud but of a solid body, and they reacted to it exactly as they would to the shadow of a rod or a fisherman, and buried themselves in the weeds or the deepest water.

The shadow passed and the tarn was again in daylight, but it was twenty minutes later I saw the first fish rise. I drifted down on him, and getting my flies just where had risen beside a weed bed, had him in the boat a minute or two later, a small fish just over the limit. He was presently followed by a smaller one just under the limit, who went back. After that, the morning of the eclipse was an ordinary fishing

morning and one of the worst. I could not rise many fish and I could catch none. One hooked himself in the tail and escaped by taking out thirty yards of line and bolting into a reed bed. Another, hooked on the dropper, caught the tail fly in the weeds and so freed himself. I was very sleepy and was startled by the only good fish I met, who went off with half a cast and two of my best flies, tied specially for the eclipse. These things, unsatisfactory in themselves, were, however, enough to prove that trout, feeding normally before the eclipse, stopped feeding altogether at the passage of the moon's shadow, ceased to feed for about as long as when put down by the shadow of a careless fisherman, and plucking up heart with second dawn that day, resumed their feeding. All of which was precisely what might have been expected.

In the **Lune Fishing Report for 1927**, mention was made of two unusual fish which were taken during the season.

“Both fish to the unobservant would have been assumed to have been sea trout. The reading of the scales however by Mr Hutton and Mr Thwaites have resulting in both being found to be salmon smolt. The first taken by the keeper in June being 12” long, a very unusual size at three and a half years old. The second taken by Mr Clegg at the end of August was almost identical in size and colouring as the first.

Interesting questions relating to these fish were discussed by Mr Ransome in his weekly article in the Manchester Guardian of 9th Sept. last.

In **1928** Wilfred Barnes allowed members to fish from the field recently purchased by him immediately below the Helwith road Bridge.

“During the season it has been necessary to have a new wood framework covered with wire netting put over No. 12 pond. We have also had to concrete the sides of No. 10 pond owing to the banks leaking. In the spring three stages at the Tarn, which had been washed away by the heavy gales, had to be partly rebuilt. We have also had to put a new footbridge across the Blind End Beck, the old one having become very rotten and beyond use. These repairs have made our expenditure for the year very heavy”.

So enthusiastic was Wilfred that he generously supplied materials and transport for some of the repairs at the Hatchery.

In **1929** the Committee reported that the Fishing Season had been very poor both on the Ribble and on the Lune, however the membership was up on the previous year by 2 to 90. 16 new members had been enrolled including 2 LADIES !

Excerpts from the Annual Report for 1930

“On October 22nd, all the sixth-month-old fish in the Hatchery ponds were counted and graded; 7,779 being the total reared out of the 20,000 ova (all from Howietoun) laid down in January 28th 1930. Last year the total was 2,175. This is an increase of 1,604 over the last year and is the best result we have had for many years.

Congratulations are due to Keeper Hunt for his results and it is hoped he will continue in his efforts to obtain even better results.

The hearty thanks of the Council and members are due to Mr Sutcliffe, who by his untiring efforts, has constructed several weirs across the river in the length of water a short distance above the New Inn Bridge. By doing so he has made what was very poor fishing into good holding pools for fish. It is intended to construct more of these weirs in the future. Mr Sutcliffe has very kindly promised to supervise their construction.

There is now a gauge board fixed in midstream immediately below New Inn Bridge, which shows clearly the height of the river. Arrangements have been made for Keeper Hunt to inform Mr Crawshaw of The Crown Hotel, Horton (tel No 9, Horton in Ribblesdale) of the height of the river on the gauge every morning at 8.30 am and every evening at 6 pm. Any member desirous of knowing the state of the river may ring up Mr Crawshaw at any time during the day and ask him at what height the river is on the gauge. (The bottom of the gauge is summer level of the river). By this means any member can ascertain exactly the state of the water before he leaves home for a fishing day.”

Excerpts from the Annual Report for 1930

“A fish of 1½ lbs was taken on the worm on June 1st at the foot of Brandsghyll Beck. It had a 5” long young trout in its gullet, half digested.”

Wilfred Barnes was President for 1931, whilst continuing as Ribble Fishing Secretary.

Abel Heywood JP, one of the founders of the Association died at the advanced age of 91 years.

The End of Fish Breeding at Horton

April 20th 1932 Wilfred Barnes wrote to George Shorthouse at Howietoun saying :-

“We get a fair amount of peat water at times down the stream which feeds our hatchery at Brandsghyll. Can you say whether in your opinion this is detrimental or not to the rearing of fry and if so to what extent “

Mr Shorthouse replied on the 21st of April to Mr Barnes :-

“I am in receipt of your letter of 20th inst. And in reply beg to say that “a fair amount of peat” temporarily in the water in which you are rearing the fry will not injure them. Of course water such as we have from springs led to the hatchery in pipes from where it issues from the earth is really what a first class hatchery water supply should be, but very seldom can one get such a supply.

Fry will not grow so quickly in peat water as in water flowing through a fine fertile valley of sand and gravel formation. The reason is obvious, for in peaty water there is a great scarcity of microscopic life, that is life in the water that cannot be seen with the naked eye. That life is found in great quantities in the other supply.

The letter from Wilfred Barnes mirrors the continuing unease about the hatcheries. He knew that in comparison with other hatching enterprises the mortality of young fry was extremely high and yet he could never quite put his finger on the reason. He was putting a lot of time into the hatcheries and he was not getting the desired results. As a business man he knew that the hatcheries were not cost effective if all the time taken in their supervision was taken into consideration. For many succeeding years he played along with the system until after the war he oversaw their closure.

From all this data Wilfred Barnes proposed that the hatchery should cease the production of fry from ova and instead buy in six month old troutlets. Wilfred obviously got his way about what he thought to be the most economical method of raising trout, as the actual hatching of ova was discontinued and instead well grown fry were bought in.

I knew Wilfred Barnes for a number of years and a kinder man you could not meet. I will never forget visits to “Nettlepot”, his retreat in the Lune valley where he owned considerable fishing rights. These I believe he let to the Manchester Anglers free of charge. His wife was a lovely soul and knew exactly what a teenager liked to eat before and after fishing and was always welcoming. Wilfred died in 1955.

David Marsden

The Report of 1933

“In the river above the New Bridge Inn, several more weirs have been completed by the kind generosity of our President, Mr J. W. Sutcliffe who has kindly defrayed the cost of constructing them.

Mr Wilfred Barnes continues to represent the Association on the Ribble Board, and a strong opposition he has raised against the proposal to erect Salmon passes at Langcliffe weir which has the full approval of your Council”.

The Report of 1934

“**The Annual Dinner** was held at the Constitutional Club in Manchester on 25th April 1935 when over 60 members had the pleasure of hearing Mr J. Arthur Hutton’s illustrated address on “The Life History of the Salmon”. In electing Mr Hutton a life member, the Council recalling his fifty years membership, have sought in some way to indicate their sincere regard and to pay a well merited compliment in recognition of his great contribution towards scientific research.

The Lune Fishery.

“The angler may at any time be rewarded with a fine fish as witness the 5½ lb Sea Trout taken by our Secretary in August. The scales of this fish (which is easily a record so far as our reports are concerned) were submitted to Mr Hutton.

He replied that “your fish was certainly a Sea Trout. It spent 2 years in the river and about 2½ years in the sea and then spawned when it was towards the end of its 5th year. It has spawned since in 3 consecutive years, making 4 spawnings all together. The last one was in 1933, this makes it about 8½ years old”

Arthur Hutton, who was a keen Salmon fisherman, gave talks to the Meetings in 1909 and 1910 on the subject of Salmon scales. Excerpts of each of his talks have been reproduced in Chapter 7, February 1909 and March 1910. The full talks can be found in Book 10 of the Manchester Angler’s Manuscript books.

The Report of 1935

Library

“A new Catalogue was issued during 1935. Subsequently the late Mr Samuel Swire, a member for thirty years, bequeathed to the Association two large packing cases containing over 100 volumes. The Librarian would welcome more demand from borrowing members.”

The Librarian was Mr F. W. B. Cross who kept the MAA books at 77 King Street in Manchester from where books could be borrowed.

The Accounts showed a deficit due to the improvements in the Hatchery which were now being used to hold fry bought in from the Harrytoun Hatchery. Eight members gave generously to the Hatchery Fund and further voluntary donations were requested. £33.7.6d had been collected. In the following year a further 26 members donated another £41.7.6d. The improvements at the Hatchery had cost £71.7.[^]d.

The Report of 1936

“In the river, above New Bridge Inn, several more weirs have been completed by the kind generosity of our President, Mr J.W. Sutcliffe who has kindly defrayed the cost of constructing them.

Mr Wilfred Barnes continues to represent the Association on the River Ribble Board, and again he has raised a strong opposition against the proposal to erect Salmon passes at Langeliffe weir which has the full approval of your Council.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Reform Club in Manchester on 29th January 1937 when there was an attendance of 54 members and guests. A remarkable number were prevented from attending due to influenza. On the conclusion of the dinner a number of cinema films kindly lent by Mr W.J.E. Owen and Hardy Bros (Alnwick) were exhibited and appreciated.

The Lune Fishery

The Council has been concerned about the insecurity of the tenancy of the Lune Fishing and some of the owners have been approached with a view to securing the fishing for a term of years. In spite of some very attractive offers from outsiders, all the owners have been loyal to the Association. We have now obtained most of the best fishing for a few years. Hopes are entertained of getting the remainder on similar terms. Mr J.F. Linney very kindly drew up the tenancy agreements and the best thanks of the members are due to him for his valuable assistance.

Mr Barnes carried out the restocking, and thanks are again due to him and his band of voluntary helpers for successfully carrying out this work.

Again the return of fish is incomplete owing to some members failing to keep a record or to send in their return at the end of the season. Members are reminded that it is impossible to keep records without their assistance.”

	<i>Brown Trout</i>		<i>Sea Trout</i>		<i>Salmon</i>	
	<i>1935</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>1935</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>1935</i>	<i>1936</i>
March	8	2	-	-	-	-
April	56	23	-	-	-	-
May	8	32	-	-	-	-
June	30	39	-	-	-	-
July	42	40	6	4	6	-
August	40	70	6	16	19	2
September	132	50	6	8	7	8
October	-	-	-	1	19	2
	316	260	18	29	53	12
Largest Salmon		21lbs				
Largest Sea Trout		4½lbs				
Largest Brown Trout		2lbs.				
Visitors' tickets issued		30	Children's tickets		14	

The On 9th March 1937 there were 66 members. Of these 32 fished the Ribble and the Lune, one person fished only the Lune and 30 fished only the Ribble. There was one non fishing member who lived in Ross-on-Wye.

This report gave the dates on which the members were elected to the Association. The two longest serving members were Edward Austin (1886) who now lived In Paington in Devon and J.Arthur Hutton who lived in Alderley Edge in Cheshire. Both had been elected as Life Members in recognition of their long service to the M.A.A.

Nat Hunt, The Keeper

In 1938 Nat Hunt died.

“It is with very great regret that the death of Keeper Hunt is recorded. Hunt had been with the Association for over 45 years and the Council wish to place on record their appreciation of his many years of service and to extend to his widow and family their sincere sympathy in their bereavement. The Council have appointed Mr W. Pollard of Billy Garth in Horton in Ribblesdale as his successor.”



Walter Pollard, The New Keeper

After the death of Nat Hunt in 1938, Walter Pollard was appointed the Honorary Bailiff at £52 p.a., the previous two Keepers having been paid a full wage. A telephone was provided for him at his house, 'No. Ribblesdale 221'

Walter was also Fishing Licence distributor for the Ribble Conservancy Board. He rarely fished himself but there was little he did not know about poaching!

Apparently his origins were in Burnley, whose football team at Turf Moor he supported for most of his life. I believe he had been a coal mining engineer and had lived in Ingleton where he worked until it was obvious to him that the mine was running out of reserves, so before it closed in 1936 he moved to Horton. His wife was Maggie Bentham of Crag Hill, the daughter of a long line of Benthams who had lived in Horton Parish for several centuries.

Walter built himself a house called "Billy Garth" and soon extended it for his Guest House business. It prospered as he looked after many of the Manchester Anglers when they first came to Horton for a few days fishing. When he retired from the business in the late 1940s he built himself a bungalow next door called "Walter Garth". He also built other houses in the village and was often employed to do property repairs in the Dale.

Walter had a petrol pump outside his house, which delivered the fuel using a hand pump which filled a gallon glass container before the fuel was released into the car. He was an Insurance Agent selling house and car Insurance. He also ran the local taxi service and it was this job that made him ideal for watching the river as he plied his trade up and down the valley. Any strange car, and there were a few that penetrated the upper Ribblesdale, would be checked out by Walter. He took over the Hatchery in Brandsghyll and looked after the fish well during the difficult early years of the war, that is until the Hatchery was closed down.

Walter was never without a cigarette in his mouth which drooped at a peculiar angle from his lips. He rarely walked the river bank, relying on the view from his taxi.

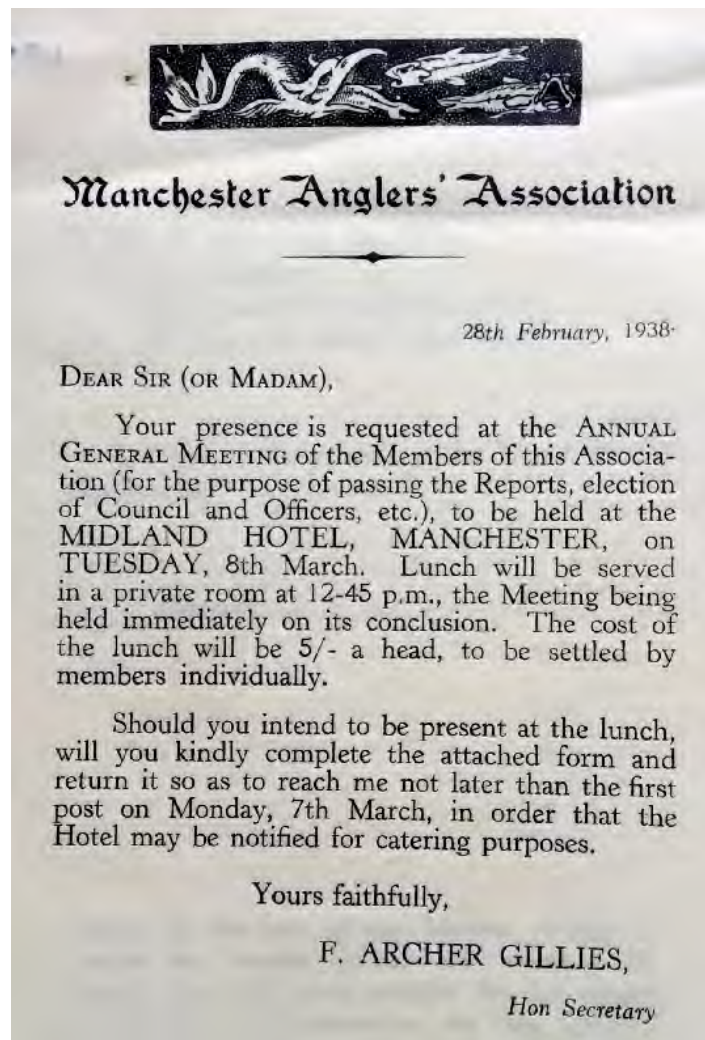


Walter Pollard and Bert Morphet
at The Shaws in Selside



Walter and Maggie Pollard
At a Manchester Angler's Dinner in the
early 1950s

Annual General Meeting 1939



The AGM for 1937 was held on 8th March 1938 at The Midland Hotel in Manchester.

At the end of the proceedings and election of the new officers for 1938 a discussion was held on the idea of Buying fishing rights.

“Cordial approval was expressed as regards the policy of purchasing fishing rights, but it was requested that all members be fully informed and given opportunity of subscribing. A resolution was proposed by Dr McClure and seconded by Dr Sutherland that “The Council be authorised to proceed on the lines indicated and then report to the members”

At the July meeting of the Council it was reported that the subcommittee had met and unanimously resolved that a company should be formed for the purchase of fishing rights, the Articles of this association to be as wide as possible so as to include the purchase of land and buildings with the sporting rights attached subject to the expressed wish of the members of the Association and a 75% majority of the Shareholders of the Company. The Association would be responsible for the legal costs other than those which Mr Thorpe had undertaken to settle personally. (Mr Thorpe was the Association Librarian).

In 25th June 1938 an article was published in the "Fishing Gazette" written by W.T.P. This caused quite a stir and number of letters in protest to the content of the article, in particular from Wilfred Barnes and Harry Kershaw, members of the M.A.A.

Ribblesdale Trout — Is Restocking Effective ? — Salmon Problem

A short distance upstream from Settle Bridge in Yorkshire, the course of the river is interrupted by a steep, sheer weir, impossible to salmon or other fishes. The height may not appear terrific in itself, but the foot of the weir is practically a slide of smooth limestone for many yards. Even in a flood a fish running up from the sea cannot make the leap as it might from a natural hollow pool.

At times there have been suggestions that either a fish pass or deep pool should be constructed here, so that salmon might pass up the stream. The riparian owners on the upper river however are hostile to any alteration and expenditure. It is their firm belief that the arrival of the salmon would bring an inevitable deterioration in the standard of trout angling, which in this hungry countryside, with peaks such as Ingleborough and Penyghent shedding sudden and barren floods, is maintained with considerable difficulty.

The streams which fall into the Ribble above Settle are short and steep, almost dry in summer, and with great rock ladders in their beds. Even on the main stream there are few stretches of holding water, even for trout above Stainforth Force.

The owners of the fisheries put in thousands of yearling and older trout in most years, but persons who watch the river closely are not convinced that more than a few of each restocking remain in the upper river. There are so few pools, practically no reaches, and so little shelter that the heavy flood water carries the flood water below Settle where the river winds for miles among the meadows and pastures as rich as many in the North. There they may grow fat and lusty, but the weir above Settle Bridge prevents their getting back to the old haunts.

Above Horton-in-Ribblesdale, the stream is practically all under limestone scars or among heather hills and peat mosses where the food supply for trout is precarious and dependent on heavy rain. So long as restocking with large fish is continued, the stock of trout will remain fair, but should restocking be discontinued, the river, so some anglers say, will soon be "fished out." But the riparian owners do not want to complicate the situation with the advent of salmon above Settle Bridge, and their position can be understood if not entirely accepted.

W.T.P.

Ribblesdale Trout

Sir, Some of the statements in the article by your contributor "W.T.P." in your issue of June 25th, are so amazingly inaccurate that it makes one wonder, not whether "W.T.P." knows the upper Ribble as an angler, but whether he has even taken the trouble to walk along the banks of the stream he has written about.

The upper Ribble from Helwith Bridge, which is a mile or so above Stainforth Bridge to Ribble Head, is the fishery of the Manchester Angler's Association, of which club I am a member. I know every yard of the river for at least eight miles above Helwith Bridge, and nowhere is there a fall of more than two feet, and not more than ten percent is of the "broken water" variety. Generally the river is along series of pools connected by stickles or rapid shallows; this also applies to the Ribble within a very few miles of Ribble Head. The river here contains only trout which on the whole will not average three to the pound. It is no uncommon thing for a day to yield a half pound average. Pound fish are often taken — I had one to a small "Greenwell" on Whit-Saturday and others of a half pound average. Several other members had fish of three quarters amongst many of somewhat lower weights. My best fish to the fly in this water is one pound twelve ounces.

There is not a single "limestone scar" above Helwith Bridge near the river that I have ever seen, just a quarry or two. There are a few heather hills; these are common in the West Riding; and perhaps a peaty moss or two at the heads of some of the becks.

Naturally in a stream of this kind the fishing varies according to the height of the water, but this is so in all rivers where there are constant fluctuations of level. The danger with big floods is not that the trout are washed out by them. Floods wash out the fly larvae, *not* the trout. The upper Ribble is literally stiff with trout, and we do *not* stock with large fish, nor do we stock heavily.

Much of the water is ideal for the dry fly, which is a very popular method amongst our members.

The water meadows below Settle, to which your contributor no doubt refers, i.e. "Preston Deepes," are mainly inhabited by course fish. The Ribble improves again lower down still, where it regains its stream and pool character.

We who preserve and fish the Horton-in Ribblesdale water, naturally do not want a capital trout stream ruined by the presence of salmon parr, which once they have left for other parts will never be seen during the open season for salmon as mature fish, in the water which reared them.

The upper and middle Ribble constitute one of the best trout waters in the north of England, and many anglers who know the river well will agree that salmon in this river are not an unmixed blessing

Contrary to "W.T.P.'s" statement, the trout in Horton Ribble are in fine condition as early as March. This is because there is not shared with the salmon and sea trout parr, nor with course fish.

I trust this letter may help to correct the poor impression of the value of the upper Ribble as a trout fishery, which "W.T.P.'s" grossly inaccurate contribution is bound to create.

Yours truly
H. Kershaw, Manchester

Ribblesdale Trout

Dear Sir, As Hon. Fishing Secretary to the Manchester Anglers' Association on the nine miles of the upper Ribble at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, I cannot understand how anyone could write such a false report of any length of fishing as your correspondent W.T.P. Did in your issue of June 25th.

Stating that there are no holding ponds shows that he does not even know the length for in the first two miles of our water from Helwith Bridge upwards, there are at least twenty to thirty good holding pools and reaches in which trout could find harbour even in the largest floods.

To assert that floods are carrying fish eight or nine miles downstream below Settle (where they may grow fat and lusty W.T.P.) is perfectly ridiculous. We have at present plenty of fat and lusty trout in our water at Horton even though W.T.P. thinks that our natural food supply for trout is precarious. We certainly have sufficient food for our own trout, but if half of this food went to feed salmon parr, then the trout would definitely suffer.

Having fished the Upper Ribble at Horton for thirty-five years, and having creeled as many as thirty-seven fish in one day, shows that there are plenty of fish in the river. Even in dead low water our members have taken ten to twenty trout to the dry fly in one day.

I thoroughly endorse every word of Mr Kershaw's letter published in your issue of July 2nd..

Yours truly
Wilfred Barnes
Hon. Fishing Secretary, Horton Fishery;
Manchester Angler's Association
"Claremont", Waterworks Rd
Oldham, Lancs.