

# Maldon Angling Society

January 2017

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## Notice of AGM

The 2017 AGM is to be held at Great Totham Village Hall on Sunday 22nd January starting at 10.00 am.

It's your chance to catch up with the committee and ask any questions you may have and vote in the committee members for the coming year. You will be able to renew your membership on the day, so please bring your cards and membership fees along.

## Rule Change

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 rule 6.9 will be amended to "All anglers must be in possession of an unhooking mat except at organised matches where an unhooking mat will be provided by the match organiser."

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It's that time of year again folks, where I put pen to paper and try to give some insight as to the goings on and state of the society for the past year. The club is in a good financial position to cope with the running and maintenance of the society for another year with a healthy membership to match. With that in mind, it was decided at the annual budget meeting to keep fees the same for another year.

The committee has been pretty stable this year with all the named position officials completing the full term and will hopefully carry on again next year if re-elected at the A.G.M. Unfortunately 3 officials (under Other Members) resigned due to personal circumstances. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their sterling efforts and hard work in the past and would welcome them back anytime.

Once again Shaun McGuinness has run the bailiffs section superbly and has managed to do this whilst juggling his time with running his own business. The bailiffs have done a superb job this year and all our membership should be respectful for this. Without them poaching, rule breaking etc would soon become major problems for the society.

Usual story on the fishery management front; lots of tasks to be done but with too few helpers available. Paul Kemp has continued to work tirelessly throughout the year more often than not on his own. The society is indebted to him for his hours of dedication. Jaime Smart must also be congratulated for his improvements and management of Howells Lake. It is a standard that we should aim for (where possible) on our other waters. At this juncture I would like to ask all our members to be very vigilant on the risk of fly tipping. We already have had a major incident at Beckingham where the entrance was blocked off for several days. With changes to the local recycling centres regulations these type of incidents are very likely to increase.

Our fisheries have, in general, fished well this year with perhaps the exception of a disappointing Totham Pit. Over the past year we have managed to negotiate a new 10 year lease for the pit with no small part of the proceedings going to the treasurer Simon Greengrass who spent hours on the phone talking to the owner. Now that this has been finalised a re-stocking strategy has been formulated and will be implemented over the coming years to improve the sport. Further fishery reports and stockings I'll leave to the secretaries summaries.

I always like to finish my ramblings on a personal note, so here goes. Fishing wise it has been an OK year with multiple carp catches on my float rod (individual fish to 18lbs). Once again though it has been roach that have been the highlight of year with fish to 1lb 8oz. Surely that illusive 2lber is out there somewhere with my name on it. Oh well we can all dream.

Good angling to all and I hope to see you on the banks this coming season.

*Mal Gardiner*  
Chairman

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## Secretary's Report

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2016 was most notable for the successful conclusion of our negotiations for a new lease on Totham Pit, a process which called for great dedication, commitment and pa-

tience on the part of my fellow committee members, who deserve our gratitude. We have not stocked any fish into Totham Pit for 5 years as we wished to wait for the comparative security of a long term lease. Now that this is achieved, we have embarked on a restocking programme which I will cover in some detail. Before doing so, however, I thought it would be useful to describe the Society's approach to restocking waters in general as it is an issue which crops up regularly in my conversations with members.

If you ask the Environment Agency for their advice on stocking you get a succinct answer – don't. Their view is that the best balanced and most robust fishery results from allowing a water to replenish and modify its stock as a natural process. This council of perfection may well be the case, but modern fisheries are under too much angling and predator pressure to rely on such a long term approach. Our members' desire for adequately stocked waters with a good number of larger fish means that we have to replenish stocks when the need arises.

Commercial fisheries restock on a regular basis, sometimes more than once in a season, but their waters are subject to greater angling pressure than ours, and their fees reflect this. Our approach has to be more targeted in order to keep our fees at a reasonable level and to maintain mixed fisheries. We therefore try to focus on waters where catch records and anecdotes seem to show a need for more fish.

We try to respond to the wishes of our members by stocking a variety of species and we maintain a good relationship with a few sources where we know from experience that the quality of their fish is good and we can keep the cost lower by undertaking the removal, transportation and necessary licencing ourselves (the last a bureaucratic exercise, the tedious detail of which I would be glad to relate to you sometime, should you have trouble getting to sleep). We occasionally use commercial suppliers for specific species, for instance crucian carp and ide are two recent examples. Silver fish and carp are readily available, but slower growing fish like tench and bream are expensive and not always obtainable.

Stocking is best undertaken during winter, when fish metabolism is lower and they are better able to withstand the shock of removal. This means that netting, in particular, tends to be a cold and demanding (and sometimes fruitless) undertaking for our long-suffering fishery management team.

We prefer to stock into waters where our lease states that we own the stock. This seems obvious, but lease terms vary widely between waters. Where we do not own the stock we endeavour to come to an agreement with the owner which allows the Society to retain a financial interest in the fish we introduce, usually on a sliding scale over time (sorry for that dreadful pun).

Returning to Totham Pit, we have embarked on a programme of gradual restocking which will allow us to monitor both the health of the introduced fish and their effect on the existing stock. The first stage has already begun with the transfer of 24 carp of varying sizes from Bog Grove.

The second stage has commenced with the acquisition of 32 larger carp which have now been stocked into Beckingham Hall. These will be gradually introduced into Totham Pit over time, provided all is well with the first stage stocking. We will also be introducing a feeding programme for Beckingham Hall in order to encourage growth and to maintain health.

I mentioned in last year's newsletter that we are using the upper lake at Beckingham as a growing-on stock pond and we will be looking at progress amongst the cohort there in the coming year.

Other stocking plans for 2017 include the introduction of more silver fish into Slough House West and the possible further stocking of ide.

Finally, in fond memory of the late Alan Marsh, I offer the following fisherman's prayer:-

"Lord, suffer me to catch a fish, so large that even I,  
When speaking of it afterwards, should have no need to lie".

*David Spalding*  
Secretary

# Kyff's still quite long Column

Another year has flown by and the seasons have travelled full circle. Apparently my ramblings in the newsletter last year were so long that some members fell asleep before reaching the end so this year I have promised to make my piece (a bit) shorter and allow others to have their say, remind me of that if this piece is still going in two pages time...

I began 2016 as I do most years fishing at Bog Grove for my annual double from there. A side note in my fishing diary at the end of February says 'I would like to think that one in ten Bog Grove carp is a double but does that mean having landed 27 singles that the three carp I have lost were all doubles!'. Well maybe as my 39<sup>th</sup> Bog Grove carp of the season at the end of March was a double and a nice one too. The fish fought like a nutter trying every leap and lunge to shed the hook during the fight, in fact it felt more like I was playing a pike than a carp. Fortunately the hook hold was a good one and I eventually slipped the net under a 14lb 10oz Common. Along the way I'd also had three gudgeon on half a boilie, a 1lb 2oz Rudd, a 2lb 7oz Bream and my biggest Crucian for three seasons at 3lb 7oz. Crucian have a unique fighting style (well they do on 15lb line anyway) and even in the dark I could tell I was attached to a special bar of gold.

Into the 2016-17 season proper and I made my way over to Whitehouse Farm. The scene that greeted me had put some members off as the owner had warned us he was growing spuds and would be pumping the lake in high summer so to maximise the amount of water he could extract he had filled the lake brim full. This had flooded all the old swims and made the lake difficult to fish so he had taken the decision to remove all of the surrounding vegetation. Now fortunately I like open waters, or big sky fisheries as Jim Gibbinson refers to them, and once I had adapted to the muddy banks, horizontal rain, cold winds blowing a hoolie and two hundred noisy ducks I started to really enjoy myself. Twice I had to pack up in a hurry as thunderstorms that had seemed a long way off ten minutes earlier then produced forked

lightning that was way too close for comfort and made waving 11 feet of carbon around standing next to a risen farm reservoir seem like an extremely bad idea. On one occasion I was half way through a ham and chicken paste sandwich which was very frustrating. Persistence paid off though and several trips later I caught my first ever brace of MAS twenties. Not the biggest Commons I have ever landed but putting the first one on the bank just fifteen minutes after I'd started fishing set up the possibility and with just half an hour of my session left the brace was secured.



*Whitehouse Farm twenty*



*Rook Hall two tone common*

By late May the weed in the middle lake at Rook Hall was starting to take hold but I saw a nice carp milling about in the first swim facing the small island. The fishing was slow and I amused myself by recording a cuckoo which was sitting in the tree next to me on my antique mobile phone and photographing an emerging dragonfly. The take when it arrived was a screamer, most are when you are only fishing one rod length out, and the culprit was a two tone Common of 14lb 14oz, my largest from the middle lake.

One of our best venues for a bumper session is Beckingham Hall and two days later I landed seven carp in an afternoon. Only one was a double but the 10lb 13oz linear Mirror was a real warrior.

I saw Alan Marsh on arrival that day and as usual he had taken a fish off the surface but the wind had got up so he was off to try his luck at Heron Hall. Little did I realise that I wouldn't bump into Alan again and he will be sadly missed by all those who knew him, a fine angler with many good fish to his name.

As May drew to a close I had my best ever Rook Hall far lake session with seven carp including three doubles and my new venue best by 4oz at 15lb on the nose. The session also sticks in my mind as it contained a Frank Spencer moment while playing a 13lb 6oz Common. As I drew the carp towards my waiting landing net the telescopic handle parted at the joint and the net sank leaving just one foot of the front half of the handle visible. Somehow I managed to slide the butt section back onto it but as I lifted the net to engulf the carp for a second time it snapped in half again and the carp swam out. This time I could grab the now 50% shorter handle and scooped up my prize at the third attempt. It will come as no surprise that I have now discarded telescopic landing net handles as a bad idea for carp fishing and am using a six foot long one-piece handle from now on.



*Beckingham linear mirror*

My new landing net debuted at Little Park main lake in early June and you've guessed it the first fish it netted was a nice slimy 5lb 11oz Bream (with a distinctive light patch of scales on one side) followed by a 5lb fully scaled Mirror. As a carp angler catching Bream that are bigger than Carp is rarely seen as a positive result but at least I had christened my new landing net. Little Park main and top lake weren't quite as kind to me this year but I did manage a brace of low doubles (OK they weighed 10lb and 10lb 2oz) in late July from the popular car park swim. This was the session when it starting raining as I arrived so I sat my car like a wimp for half an hour until it stopped while one of the other regulars drove up, parked, unloaded his gear in the rain and was set up and fishing before I'd opened my car boot.

Some fish fall off for no apparent reason while others you feel you should have lost stay on. I had a very violent take at Little Park Top Lake and my left hand rod tip bent beneath my other rod and both lifted into the air when I struck and then got tangled up in the dark. The fish did whatever it wanted to on a slack line and I had to put the rod down as I tried to untangle it. I then had to leave it on the bank as I retrieved a torch from my rucksack. When I lifted the rod up again everything had somehow righted itself and the carp was now down to my right but still on and swiftly netted (it was probably completely confused by my unconventional playing style). The hook fell out easily on the unhooking mat so how that one stayed on I'll never know.

At the end of August I decided to return to Beckingham Hall as I decided it was the venue that would give me the best view of any aircraft heading to and from the Clacton airshow. I hit the jackpot on all fronts with ten carp, nine of which took a Vortex boilie on my left hand rod plus a Mig fighter, Supermarine Spitfire, Hawker Hurricane and a large WW2 bomber of indeterminate manufacture.

Heron Hall was a slow burner for me this year with a run of a dozen small carp and tench and finally at the end of October a brace of doubles in fine autumn condition.

I had a great autumn at Howells last year but this year managed just one 18lb 15oz Common, this fish falling to my rods after bankside chats with our ex-chairman and current vice president Alan Hare and fishery manager Jamie both of whom are much more versatile anglers than I am. I realise that as my 35<sup>th</sup> season's fishing, and 30<sup>th</sup> season pursuing carp, draws to a close I have chosen to fish waters that respond to my favourite margin tactics rather than adapting my tactics to get the best results from the waters I am fishing. As I believe Slartibartfast said in my favourite Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy "I'd rather be happy than right any day..."

All the best for 2017.

*Paul Kyffin*

## Letter from Latvia

*Great thanks to MAS member Richard Thompson who volunteered to provide a piece for the newsletter (largely to save us all from more of Kyff's aircraft spotting & paste sandwich recollections).*

With only a few days of fishing in the UK available to me a year, I decided, pragmatically, to keep my MAS membership ticking over as it gave me access to a number of interesting and picturesque little waters, some of which barely see a carp angler gracing their banks.

For the short period in June 2016 that I would be in the country, I decided upon two waters to tackle. One where I had spent a little bit of time the previous Spring, and the other completely new to me, but which had come highly recommended from non-other than the MAS membership secretary, the notorious Paul Kyffin.

The first water is about 2 – 3 acres, split into a number of bays. It has reed and snag lined margins, and during the warmer months weed spreads across its surface making fishing difficult without some dedicated weed raking. The best thing being that because of the small head of carp and the attraction of two other nearby lakes, which are stacked full of fish, this little lake gets overlooked.

During the tentative visits I'd had the previous year, I'd consistently seen the fish in one small area – a back channel lined with snags. I'd caught my first two carp from there, both of which had perfect mouths and unblemished scales – dark, clear water, perfect carp. Neither of these fish were huge by today's standards, but that isn't why I go carp fishing. I noted the spots and had a lead around in other areas, just to explore a little for future reference.

June 2016 rolled around, and I found myself back in the UK to play some shows at a folk music festival. This meant I had some time to fish the lake and put a little plan in motion that I'd had at the back of my mind for the previous 12 months.

Now, despite seeing and catching fish from one particular end of the lake, I planned to spend more time closer to the car park. I'd spotted some fish there one evening, whilst on a reconnaissance trip there, which coincided with catching a couple from another lake nearby. This area was one of the largest open water zones on the lake, with big patches of weed, which the carp seemed to be exploring. I'd seen two on the surface investigating a wind line of debris blowing across the lake and another had crashed out in the margins of a reed-lined peninsula. Unfortunately, there was a lot of Canadian Pondweed in this area, meaning it would be hard to land a lead on the bottom.

On my next evening trip I was back with a weed rake, thigh waders, one rod, a kilo of Trent Baits Fresh Water Shrimp, and a bucket of sweet-corn and chickpeas. The swim I had chosen was tucked between a tree and some bushes, a little discreet hole that looked like it hadn't been fished for a while. I'd noticed that this end of the lake was not very popular with the match anglers who frequented the place, but hoped that by picking this spot, which gave access to the largest weed bed and a set of reeds, it would be slightly inconspicuous.

After an hour spent raking and baiting I settled down to watch the water until dusk. Not much occurred apart from the activity of the lde on the surface. Just before I left, I pushed all the weed that I had raked out into the lake, spreading it in a raft across the front of the swim. Any split bait was collected and disposed of, and the reeds and grass tidied. Hopefully, I thought, the mass of weed in front of the swim would put people off and I could just gently drag it back in with my landing net handle.

Two days later I was back for a longer day session, this time with my girlfriend for company, as she had obtained a MAS Guest ticket. The swim was empty and, even better, there was a carp mooching about in a hole in the weed no more than ten metres from the area I had cleared. Donning the waders, I slipped into the water and pulled back the loose weed to leave myself a channel for my lines. As I was setting the rods up, I kept an eye on the lake and noticed several other fish further out. It was a warm Summer's day with a gentle breeze, almost perfect for floater fishing. Bearing this in mind I decided to quietly throw about thirty boilies into the area and then creep off to the snaggy areas at the top of the lake to attempt to stalk a fish out.

The stalking proved frustrating. The area I headed to was where I'd caught the previous season. A small bar ran from the end of a cigar shaped island, the fish seemed to really enjoy sunning themselves here and could be spotted most days. I climbed a tree to survey the water better and spotted several decent carp to upper doubles. Despite showing an interest in the small, but steady stream of mixers I was flicking out, I only managed to get one attempt at my hook-bait before they drifted off under a large snag, so I headed back to my original swim.

In the hour or so I'd been away not much had occurred. This was reported to me by my girlfriend who was busying herself with a painting of the lake. However, she had seen one carp jump out slightly to the right of the swim. Rods were rigged with 1 ounce leads on break-away clips, and simple pop-up rigs – nothing complex. Both rigs were swung into the hole I'd made in the weed and placed about 6 feet apart.



*Richard with a nice 16lb 13oz common*

For the next few hours I watched the weed 'tent' in various areas as carp moved through. The one thing I'd noticed about this area of the lake was how it was dead of invertebrate life. In other lakes, when bringing in strands of weed, it was usually teeming with small snails, water bugs and bivalves. However, here, this was just not the case. It really made me wonder how rich the lake was or how newly dug. Still, if there was little natural food for them, all the more reason for the carp to eat my bait. Hours passed and it was coming up to packing up time. The warmth of the day was dying off and the breeze had stilled. Suddenly, I had a steaming run on the right hand rod. Picking it up, the fish on the other end wrenched the tip right

around, taking line and heading straight into the weed where it stopped. I slowly wound back, feeling the weight of the weed on the end. A big ball of weed surfaced and slowly slid towards me before the carp kicked, shedding the weed and strongly swam towards the obstacle of a nearby snag. I put the brakes on this, holding firm and letting the action of the rod take the lunges. There really wasn't a huge amount of room to play the fish, with weed, snags and reeds very close by. Eventually it tired and allowed itself to be netted. It was a long, lean common, dark and scale perfect, weighing 16lbs. Checking its mouth, it looked like it had never been caught before and the curtain was intact.

The rest of the session passed quietly, despite putting more bait on the area. The Ide were active again at dusk as I pushed the weed raft back over the front of the swim and tidied up.

A couple of days later I was back in situ. The wind had picked up and it wasn't as warm. Patches of bubbles were popping up in the area and I was keen to get my baits out. Again, simple pop-up rigs were used. The bubbles proved to be from tench. I had my first one within an hour. Then a steaming run from a carp, that fell off as soon as it hit the weed-line. After this burst of action it fell quiet. The sun dipped and it was looking like a blank was due, until the right hand alarm signalled a take. Whilst this carp tried its best, it didn't have the power of the previous session's fish. Soon it was bundled into the net and whilst not huge, it was another scale-perfect common.

That was to be the end of that little adventure, another venue was calling, one with a larger stock of carp and different challenges. Hopefully, 2017 will see me tread the banks again in search of a couple more barely caught carp from this water. I'll definitely be renewing my membership.

*Richard Thompson*

## Photo Competition

Don't forget that if you submit pictures for inclusion on the MAS website picture gallery you can win a half price membership. Each season the best non-carp & carp picture are selected and if it's yours you receive a discounted membership for the following season. This year the non-carp prize goes to Dan Hilton for this picture of a magnificent 9lb 8oz bream from the canal.



## Photo Competition

And the winner in the carp category is Michael Perkins with this very pretty fully scaled mirror from Whitehouse Farm. Michael receives a half-price adult membership for 2017. Don't forget; if you've got a nice picture taken on a MAS water just submit it to the website.



## Concessionary Report

Another good year with plenty of senior citizens attending the matches, 20 has been a good average. Plus new venues have been fairly successful with up to 90lbs in a few of our matches. Whilst our lakes have been turning up some very good catches and specimens river and canal matches have been poor. Little or no flow and clear water has made presentation difficult so very light tackle has been the order of the day but now the rains have returned the river should pick up.

The pegging that has been introduced to many of our lakes has helped with fishery management, giving plenty of detail where work needs to be done. It helps with litter control and who needs to be controlled. The match fraternity welcome the pegs because it gives a better idea of the best fishing areas i.e. the pegs that keeps returning good results. The committee have been listening to members and the bailiffs who keep their ears to the ground. Fish movement has been improved and stocking different species like Ide has been very good because of their fast growth rate. Carp have also been putting on weight plus skimmers have been showing well lately with 12oz fish, the like of which we haven't seen in reasonable numbers for several years.

Slough house Farm is fishing well, likewise Bog Grove with good carp catches. London Reservoir is still active with plenty of silvers showing, most of which were stocked last year. Slough West has seen more fish installed this year and more members fishing and catching.

The usual weed problems at Rook Hall are easily cured with anglers taking their weed rakes and giving a good fifteen minute rake each session. When we can get on the banks again some raking early on in the year will help before new weed growth takes hold. Beckingham Hall is still consistent as is Heron Hall. Both lakes at Little Park seem to produce some quality carp and bream but it's been hard to build up a catch of smaller fish. Whitehouse Farm has produced some quality silvers and carp.

Last but not least our concessionary meals at the Duke of Wellington on the last Tuesday of every month are well attended, and everyone enjoys the crack with a great bunch of senior citizens. Not bad for a fiver.

*Keith Leverett*

Concessionary Match Secretary

## Membership

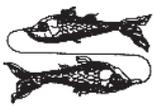
### Membership & night permit fees to stay the same

Note we have combined this newsletter with the membership renewal notification and renewal form on the last two pages. You are probably reading this newsletter on your computer screen, tablet or mobile phone but if you would like to receive a paper version of this newsletter next year please enclose 2 stamped self-addressed envelopes with your membership renewal.

As always I will be on hand at the annual general meeting at Great Totham village hall on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January to renew memberships and night permits. We have agreed to make 60 Howells night permits available for next season so the first ten members on the waiting list are guaranteed a place if they still want one. The number of standard night permits issued will remain at 120. If you have a Howells or standard night permit and want to hang onto it for the 2017-18 season please can I urge you to renew before the end of this season to avoid missing out. Finally, if you know anyone who is not a member and wants to join please let them know that new members can join now and fish the end of this season free of charge.

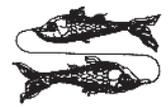
*Paul Kyffin*

Membership Secretary



# Maldon Angling Society

## Membership renewal form for the 2017-18 season



More than one person at the same address can rejoin using this form. All **new** members must supply **two** passport photos. Existing members should enclose their membership card or one replacement photo. This applies to all categories of membership including non fishing, under 12, junior and associate.

Membership number	First name	Last name	Date of birth

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

			Qty	Amount
ADULT	age 18 to 64	£76		
INTERMEDIATE	age 16 or 17	£46		
JUNIOR	age under 16	£27		
UNDER 12	Must be accompanied by a member aged 18+	£10		
CONCESSIONARY	age 65+	£50		
CONCESSIONARY	registered disabled	£50		
ASSOCIATE	partner of member	£50		
NON FISHING	non fishing visitor	£10		
GATE KEY	unchanged - required to access most venues	£6		
STANDARD NIGHT PERMIT	excludes night fishing at Howells ( <b>120 limit</b> )	+£65		
HOWELLS NIGHT PERMIT	For all night venues ( <b>60 limit</b> ) please see over	+£95		
WINTER 3 ROD UPGRADE	allows the use of 3 rods from Oct to Mar *	+£30		
FAMILY DISCOUNT	see below	-£10		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	excludes night fishing	£760		

\* if you buy either night permit you do not need to buy a 3 rod upgrade

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

**Family Discount:** If 3 or more members join from the same address at the same time you can claim a £10 discount on your total membership fees.

**Spreading the cost:** If your total fee is over £45 you can spread the cost by paying with 3 cheques, 2 of which are post-dated. Divide your total fee by 3 and send 3 cheques, eg adult (£76) = one £25.33 cheque dated today and two £25.33 cheques dated one and two months in the future, eg today's cheque = 8<sup>th</sup> Jan and post dated cheques = 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and 8<sup>th</sup> Mar. **(All cheques must be sent with this form).**

**Send to:**  
**Membership Secretary**  
**Paul Kyffin**  
**'Roseway' 60 Maldon Road**  
**Great Totham**  
**Essex CM9 8NL**

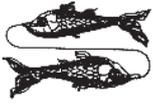
**Please make sure you enclose:**

1. **Cheque(s) or postal order made payable to Maldon Angling Society**
2. Your **ID card** or one replacement passport photograph per member
3. One stamped self addressed envelope or two stamped self addressed envelopes if you would like a paper copy of the newsletter and renewal form posted to you in Jan 2018
4. This signed and completed renewal form

Maldon Angling Society reserves the right to refuse an application to rejoin from anyone who is known to have been banned from a fishing club. I re-apply for membership and agree to abide by the rules of Maldon Angling Society:

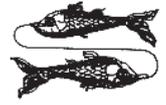
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I CANNOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOU FORGET TO SEND YOUR ID CARD OR A REPLACEMENT PHOTO**



# Maldon Angling Society

## Membership renewal notification for the 2017-18 season



**Your current 2016-17 membership expires on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.** To renew your membership, and take full advantage of the all year round fishing that we offer, please use the renewal form overleaf. This will help us to retain the fishing rights on the 17 lakes and ponds and 14 miles of river that we currently lease on your behalf.

**Our membership fees have stayed the same for next season.**

We prefer to receive your payment by cheque made payable to Maldon Angling Society but you can pay your membership fees in cash at one of our agents if you prefer or by using Paypal. Use the 'send money' facility to transfer funds to our email address [webmaster@maldonas.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@maldonas.co.uk) and then write 'Paid using Paypal' on your renewal form. Once the treasurer confirms receipt of your payment the membership secretary will process your application. Unfortunately our agents cannot accept payment by credit card.

**Night fishing permits** - The limit on Howells has been increased by ten to 60. This should hopefully increase the amount of bait introduced into the lake and hopefully the average weight of the occupants will go up as a result. The number of standard night permits on sale remains at 120.

The standard night permit allows night fishing at:

<b>Totham Pit</b>	all year round
<b>Slough House Farm</b>	all year round
<b>Little London</b>	all year round
<b>Beckingham Hall</b>	all year round
<b>Bog Grove</b>	between 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct and 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr

**Standard night permits are sold on a first come first serve basis so please renew early to avoid disappointment.**

At the time of writing there are 26 members on the waiting list for a Howells night permit and the first ten people have already been offered a place. The membership secretary will contact the remaining members by email, text or telephone as places become available. All existing Howells night permit holders have been **reserved a place until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017**. Any remaining places will be advertised from this date and the availability of both night tickets will be updated regularly on the night permit page (the first tab) of our website. The Howells night permit costs £95 in addition to your subs and Howells night permit holders can night fish all other night fishing venues. To add your name to the Howells night permit waiting list please contact Jamie Smart or Paul Kyffin or email your name and membership number to [webmaster@maldonas.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@maldonas.co.uk).

New members will not be considered for a Howells night permit until they have been a member with a clean record for at least two consecutive seasons and have held a standard night permit during the previous season.

Due to the restricted number and eligibility of night permits they will not be on general sale in tackle shops and all 60 of the individually numbered Howells night permits will be issued by the Membership Secretary.

Members who have received a written warning or suspension / ban cannot apply for either night permit. Members who have received a verbal warning cannot apply for a Howells night permit.

The maximum length of a night session on Slough House Farm is 2 days / 1 night followed by a 24 hour break between 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 3 days / 2 nights followed by a 24 hour break between 1<sup>st</sup> Nov and 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. All other night venues are 4 days / 3 nights followed by a 24 hour break.

Please remember that members under the age of 16 cannot buy either night permit. These must be purchased on their behalf by a current adult night permit holder.

Both night permits allow you to use 3 rods between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> March on all venues but anyone who wants to use 3 rods in the winter and does not night fish can do so by purchasing a **3 rod winter upgrade for £30** (less than half the price of a night permit).

If you are an occasional night angler please remember that as a member you can still night fish at the Railway Pond in Heybridge (weed permitting) or the Chelmer and Blackwater Canal (16<sup>th</sup> June to 14 March only) at no extra charge.

**Agents** - If you prefer to rejoin in person you can do so at **JP Tackle** in Maldon (our main agent), Angling Essentials in Witham or Specimen Angling in Springfield.

Please remember that with the exception of the Railway Pond and the Chelmer and Blackwater Canal our fisheries are **members only** although you can take a guest with you on a guest ticket purchased in advance of fishing. These can be bought from tackle shops, from the membership secretary or from the club website using Paypal.

**Merchandise** - We have a limited number of hoodies, beanie hats, polo shirts and baseball caps available featuring the society name / badge. Please contact Denise or Paul Kemp for availability and prices.

**For more information visit [www.maldonas.co.uk](http://www.maldonas.co.uk)**