

# Maldon Angling Society

January 2019

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Once again we find the societies season heading towards its end with the hope of warmer weather to follow the winter cold. Over the past year we have had to endure the Beast from the East leading into one of the hottest summers I can remember. This always has effects on the fishing, some good some bad. Really cold weather doesn't enthuse me to getting my fishing gear out and as I found out neither does really hot weather. Despite this, though, I have had an enjoyable season with reasonable catches in between watching an excellent football world cup (disappointing end though). From reports and discussions that I've had, fishing has generally been of good quality with excellent catches of roach from both our rivers and lakes along with decent size carp, tench, bream etc.

Membership is fairly stable this year albeit a little disappointing, maybe down to the world cup. Unfortunately we have lost the fishing rights to Brick Kiln Pond due to the change of ownership / usage, but we are always interested in obtaining new waters and any suggestions would be most welcome.

The committee has been stable over the past year, which is always good for continuity and forward planning. Excellent work has been carried out on several fronts. Under fishery management, with the approval of the owners, vast improvements have been made at Totham Pit which included tree felling and pruning, swim improvements, and path maintenance. Many thanks to Dean Barraclough, Grahame Stuart and their keen gang of helpers. General maintenance of the rest of our waters has largely been down to Paul Kemp, often single-handedly working tirelessly for the society. Many thanks indeed. Updating society matters has also been undertaken over the past year. Not everyone's cup of tea I know but health and safety regulations have been addressed and improved. The committee felt this was needed in this ever changing world, this task fell to Grahame Stuart so many thanks again. Pete Harden took on the unenviable task of updating and improving the societies constitution. Ambiguities, new data protection rules, new and outdated committee roles are just a few of the contents that required change. An ongoing thanks to Peter.

Anyone who was at last years AGM will know, to put it mildly, that it didn't go very smoothly. Two factions of our sport, namely carp and match anglers, disagreed over several of the proposals put to the AGM. Voting was very close and I later took personal criticism over the way I handled the meeting. Nobody is above criticism and everyone is entitled to their opinion. I am not a carp angler or indeed a match angler, just someone who enjoys fishing in our great outdoors and tries to put something back through my position on the committee. Let's hope that this years AGM is of a more friendly and productive nature. It's what this great club and sport of ours deserves.

Great fishing and tight lines for the season ahead.

*Mal Gardiner*  
Chairman

## Notice of AGM

The 2019 AGM is to be held at Great Totham Village Hall on Sunday 27th January starting at **10am**.

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. On that subject it's worth noting there are some vacancies coming up on the committee; Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Minutes Secretary & Website Editor. So if you want to take an active part in running your club and feel you could take on any of the roles please feel free to put yourself forward either at the AGM or by contacting an existing committee member.

## Membership

Once again we have combined this newsletter with the membership renewal notification and renewal form on the last two pages. If you are reading this newsletter on your computer screen, tablet or mobile phone, but would prefer to receive a paper copy next year, please enclose two stamped self addressed envelopes with your membership renewal.

I will be in attendance at the annual general meeting at Great Totham village hall on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January to renew memberships and night permits; alternatively you can send me your renewal in the post or take it along to JP Tackle or Angling Essentials. There will be 60 Howells night permits available again next season but these are reserved for existing holders until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

If you know anyone who is not a member and who 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

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# Secretary's Report

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In 2018 we lost what was probably our smallest water – Brick Kiln Pond at Inworth. It was not widely used, but had a small group of regular anglers who will miss it. The land the lake occupies has been sold and, presumably, will become another step in the seemingly inexorable march of concrete.

We have not been able to find any new waters in 2018. We were given a couple of ideas, but they did not come to fruition. As usual, we would be grateful for any ideas members may have.

In 2019 our seven year lease for the fishing rights on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation comes to an end. Maldon Angling Society cannot justify the cost of the lease on its own and as many of you will know, we share the lease with our partner clubs, Chelmsford AA, Colchester APS and Kelvedon and District AA. There is a general feeling that the quality of the fishing experience has declined over the life of the lease, particularly as regards access, parking and shared use with other interests and that the cost of any new lease should reflect this.

We are also aware that there are other parties interested in the fishing rights.

It is our intention to open negotiations with Essex Waterways well before expiry of the existing lease and I would welcome the views of our members on what our stance should be in the negotiation process. Please let me have your views.

One of the activities undertaken by the committee which may not be readily appreciated by members is ensuring that our constitution remains relevant, reflects best practice elsewhere and complies with legislation. Several committee members have worked hard to produce a package of constitutional changes which we will present to the AGM for approval. They cover privacy policy, data protection, health and safety, finance and dissolution.

As usual, we will be electing members to serve on the committee for 2019. I have been struck by the new ideas and energy which have been brought to the committee by the more recently appointed members and would like to see more new faces in 2019. We will be electing committee members on an individual basis for the coming AGM and will welcome offers of involvement from the floor.

Only one stocking took place in 2018 and that was silver fish into Slough House West. Stocking plans for 2019 include further silver fish if funds allow.

*David Spalding*  
Secretary

## Rule changes

The following rule changes have been introduced:

Amended rule 5.15: No Carp to be kept in keepnets except in society matches (see rule 9.3) all other fish up to 5lb (approx weight) may be retained in a keepnet. All fish over 5lb (approx weight) to be weighed/returned to the water immediately. A maximum of 30lb of fish to be kept in any one keepnet. Anglers are encouraged to carry more than one keepnet. This rule does not apply to society rivers. No fish to be kept in captivity for longer than 6 hours. Any fish showing signs of distress must be released upon demand of a society bailiff. Anglers must, upon request of a bailiff, pull in nets to clear themselves on the above rules. The society recommends that members be in possession of a fish care product such as Klinik. Keepnets may be banned temporarily on individual society waters subject to local conditions or outbreaks of waterborne disease.

Amended rule 9.3: Any fish (including carp) up to 5lb (approx weight) caught during society matches can be retained in carp friendly keepnets. Other fish must be weighed, witnessed by another angler and released immediately. The 30lb per net rule (see rule 5.15) applies even in matches. Any breach of the above will result in disqualification from the match.

New rule 9.4: Pike cannot be weighed in during society matches unless they are caught in a designated pike match.

# Kyff's sadly much smaller Column

Hello everyone, my column is much shorter this year which is probably age related but also because I, like several other people (spoiler alert for my AGM speech - our membership is 120 down this season), have not been out on the bank as much this season. My first fish of 2018 was on New Years Day from Bog Grove when I was surprised to find I had the lake to myself on a Bank Holiday

Monday. I had a liner on my RH rod about half an hour before landing a 6lb 11oz Common...on my other rod.

I spent the majority of my two separate weeks leave in April and May at Whitehouse Farm landing several doubles up to 19lb 6oz but it was Fathers Day in mid June before my first twenty pounder of the season made an appearance, a fine 20lb 11oz Mirror that upped my venue best Mirror by just 1oz. By now the irrigation pump was installed and running and on each return visit the water level had visibly dropped. A fortnight later I caught the same Mirror again, but down in weight by almost a pound to 19lb 13oz, it still took an absolute age to get in though. I decided it was time for a change of venue.

For the first time ever (I hadn't discovered fishing in 1976) the summer was so hot I actually skipped a couple of weeks due to the extreme heat. When I resumed I switched my attentions to Little Park.

My first two visits produced six pounders but I also lost two carp that felt much larger despite fishing well away from any snags. In early September my luck changed and I landed three doubles to 13lb 5oz and it was back in the same swim a week later that my surprise fish of the season arrived. I had already landed an eight pounder when a new boilie flavour I was trying for the first time produced a steady take which was met with solid resistance on the strike. Some little while later, after some hairy moments on the edge of the lilies, I finally scooped up my prize in the waiting landing net. The needle on my scales registered 24lb 11oz, my largest carp of the year and my second biggest ever from Little Park. I very much doubted I could top that so it was time for another venue change.

Disappointingly results on the new boilies tailed right off after their incredible debut, but I still have half a tub of them left so hopefully they will trip up a few more lunkers next season.

I dabbled on Little Park Top Lake in mid September but only managed a 4lb 7oz Mirror. An afternoon in late September up the far end of Rook Hall (my one and only visit of the year just before it closed) was much more rewarding with four carp, three of them doubles to 14lb 1oz. One was a 13lb 3oz linear Mirror which I recognised as an old friend, and checking back through my photos I last caught at 14lb 1oz five years ago.

Now incredibly for me it was the 28<sup>th</sup> September before I caught my first fish of the season, across every venue I had fished, that WASN'T a carp. That fish was a personal best Ide from Heron Hall of 2lb 8oz on a 14mm boilie. The take was impressive, the fight on 15lb line wasn't. The photo is a good one of my hands but hopefully you can still see enough of the fish to show how these fish, stocked as fingerlings, have thrived in our waters. Just before I was due to pack up I upped my venue best Mirror to 15lb 9oz as well to end a perfect afternoon in glorious sunshine. Now those of you who are familiar with my exploits from my previous writings will not be surprised by what follows. I returned to fish the same swim a month later on the last day of October and landed the same carp on the same bait from exactly the same spot, but this time it had gained 6oz in weight to up my venue best to 15lb 15oz. The Ide was far more sensible and didn't make the same mistake twice. My year didn't end as anticipated but I hope to bounce back after Christmas and I wish you all the best for 2019, who knows you might be the person in the next swim asking me to take a picture of your new venue best next season. Here's hoping.

All the very best,

*Paul Kyffin*



*Looking pleased with a fine 24lb 11oz common*



*Proving size is everything looking less enthusiastic about a 2lb 8oz ide*



# From the bankside



Thanks to fly fishing MAS bailiff Iain Fraser for submitting his take on the C&B canal

As a Day Ticket Bailiff for Maldon AS for the River Chelmer and Chelmer & Blackwater Canal the 2018 season saw a big drop off in the number of Day Tickets mainly due to the hot summer and resultant weed growth which put many anglers off. Those that did brave the heat tended to be more from the associated clubs more so than Maldon members or day ticket visitors.

Many of the regular visitors on the river have been missing for a couple of years now and I think this co-insides with the lack of big chub that used to attract them. It was not that many years ago when I had a chub to just over 7 lbs. and several over 6 lbs. with a good number over 5lbs but they seem to have all disappeared. One of the good things about wandering along the banks without tackle was that I could take time to watch for fish but for several years I have not spotted any lies of chub, not even shoals of smaller fish.

The bream shoals of years ago along the river seem a distant memory with just the occasional big fish coming from the pool by Hoe Mill. There are occasional glimmers of hope with some very decent roach and perch making an appearance now and again but little consistency. I have not seen or heard of any big pike coming out so far this year but drop shotting for perch does seem to be very popular now and have seen some good specimens.

The one fish that I have noticed is still in good numbers are the carp and they are spread right along the river from Chelmsford to the Heybridge Basin. I am not a carper but these river fish do interest me as they are the type of fish that are solitary or in small shoals which could be targeted by a roving angler with a good pair of Polaroid glasses. If I get the time this coming season I may just have a day or two roving and see if I can tempt them. Whilst some of the river carpers do have success with 20lb plus fish they tend to bait up for several days and then return to fish over-night.

One thing I do notice is that many of the river swims that always held an angler are now vacant more often than not which leads me to think that visiting anglers as well as club members are either going elsewhere for their fishing or that angling is losing its appeal.

I do not know the reason for the reduction in specimen silver fish, perhaps predation but I have not seen any of the three otter families I used to see nor have I noticed an increase in cormorants in fact I have seen less of those blasted birds over the last couple of years. I certainly don't think it is pike or more would be caught. Could it be that with the locks being under repair and a consequent reduction in boat traffic the bottom is getting choked? Perhaps it is just a population cycle change but whatever it is I believe it is having an effect on the number of day ticket visitors as well as club members that fish on our moving waters.

With this in mind I question whether the rental fee that is paid to the Essex Waterways is value for money. Access to the water is limited, a whole section near Chelmsford has been lost with new building works and I don't believe that it has ever stocked the river/canal. In my opinion we are paying prime fishery prices such as those commanded by rivers such as the Hampshire Avon or Dorset Stour for our water which should not command such a return unless many improvements are made.

As many of you know I rarely coarse fish these days as I am and teach the more gentle art of fluff chucking but surprisingly have encountered one chap fly fishing for pike and another putting a fly out for roach along the river. 2018 was a strange year for my fly fishing as it probably was for every discipline of angling with a very mild winter followed by the "Beast from the East" and then a spell of good spring weather quickly followed by a murderous hot summer that wrecked the fishing on lakes and reservoirs and many rivers had little water either but it did enable some easier wading to areas normally not accessible on the northern and Welsh rivers but with spells of violent winds (especially up north) that taxed many an angler's skill in putting a tiny fly out into the teeth of a gale with a 3 weight line. The late autumn was mild and damp but at least the weed all died back and the lakes and reservoirs began to produce fish and by late November the trout were climbing up the line and it was too easy so I had to find ways of targeting fish and using methods that might just pick off the better specimens. We can only hope that 2019 has a more benign weather pattern and we get the seasons which we should get. A spring, summer, autumn and Winter occurring at the proper time of the year.

I wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and tight lines on every outing.

Anyone thinking of giving fly fishing a try this year may like to look at my website on [www.flyfishingwithfraser.co.uk](http://www.flyfishingwithfraser.co.uk)

*Iain Fraser*

## Photo Competition



For the second year running the carp photo selection committee has surprisingly chosen a common (usual odd bias towards mirrors), the winner is Keifer Brewer with this fine 21lb fish taken from Howells. A half price 2018-19 membership is his for the taking. The 'non-carp' category winner is Phoebe Stuart with this Totham Pit pike, again a half-price membership is the prize. It has to be said that Paul Kemp could have taken the prize (yes, another pike picture), the way the fish is outlined, the colour just coming through in the fins is superb but committee members aren't eligible. Just for the sake of those that have good memories yes Phoebe's mum did win the photo competition last year but the photo selection committee had made the choice before that fact came to light.

Plus the photo selection committee would like to point out there is no bias towards pike (there is a bias towards chub and tench but otters seem to have eaten most of the big chub and there was no suitable picture of a happy angler holding a massive tench - Kelvin you would have won but whilst way more fish friendly, pictures on the unhooking mat don't make the photographic grade). So please let's sort that out next year and get your (not just Kelvin, but all concerned) big chub, bream, tench, roach, perch, ide etc. pictures onto the web site. It helps promote the club and of course it's not just about winning a half-price membership, it's really about showing off your angling and photographic prowess.



*Almost ; Paul Kemp with this Totham pike & Kelvin Willis for his 8lb 1oz tench*

## Concessionary Match Report

This has been a changeable year, rules and usual practices went out of the window. The AGM 2018 was to a point a shock to everyone, then as you all must know the next six months of committee and bankside chatter and people leaving. But then things reached some normality. The 12 inch rule was introduced, any fish measuring 12 inches and over were weighed and released, under that measurement all species were put into the net. Now any fish 5lbs or over are released, and the rest are now safely retained for a maximum of five hours depending on the weather (water levels and temperature will dictate the situation).

The concessionary matches are now running smoothly and the attendance numbers are increasing which is quite brilliant.

(cont.) Because of the numbers some of our lakes are not big enough so we will turn them into pairs matches i.e. using two lakes which makes the matches more comfortable. Our matches this year have been very popular with lakes fishing very well, and when the lakes were low or temperature too high we changed to river matches and the first time for a long time the catches have been exceptional, with plenty of double figure catches on most matches. Even Tesco's, the canal has been patchy but there has been a good number of 4 and 5lb weights.

The concessionary matches are a good way of keeping the older age groups fit and active, you would not think that we have 90 year old's fishing every match, that's in all weather conditions.

The bailiffs and fishery management have been working hard bringing our waters up to a good standard and hopefully the new year brings the same conditions that we have settled into.

Totham Pit will be used more, it has had many hours work spent on it. Now a little bit more walking should bring some good catches of most species. Rook Hall which has had some treatment should make the weed situation a little easier (but the weed rake has its merits) and it should be a better venue this season. London Res well maintained swims should give a better day's sport, still plenty of nice roach and quality perch, hopefully the skimmers and bream the big ones will show again. Slough House farm fished exceptionally well with endless catches of smaller carp around the 1 pound mark, plenty of tench, roach and perch and of course the big daddies, our best carp last summer was 21lbs not bad on dead maggot. Slough West suffered low water levels but pleasure anglers had good catches of tench, bream, plenty of roach and perch and good carp if you go after them. Heron hall also had good days with nets of small tench, carp and quality roach. Bog Grove as usual produced plenty of carp up to 10lbs, big bream and there were also a few silver bream caught. Little Parks had good catches from the top lake with some excellent quality roach, big bream and carp, the main lake was slower but with some quality bream roach and carp.

The river system was excellent with seed baits producing catches into double figures, Papermill and Black Bridge had some terrific catches with no blanks, hopefully this coming year will be just as good. The Tesco's stretch had several good catches but some very quiet areas. Heybridge basin as usual had good weights with the seed producing winning weights plus the odd proper bream and tench. Looking forward to the coming season for all of our lakes and river sections.

I wish everyone tight lines for the New Year.

*Keith Leverett*

Concessionary Match Secretary

## Angling coaching initiative

We now have a voluntary joint coaching scheme along with KDAA for junior anglers headed up by accredited Level 2 coaches.

Coaching sessions are held between May and October and cater for both novices and those who already fish. There is a nominal charge for bait and tackle replacement, see <https://anglingcoachinginitiative.co.uk/>.

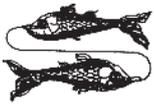
We're looking for more Volunteer Assistant's to help out at some or all of the sessions, you don't need to commit to the whole season, if you can only spare two or three days that would still be really appreciated! It's mostly Saturdays but there are some weekdays in the school holidays too. We had to turn some people away last season so any help you can give would be much appreciated, and it is both fun and rewarding too!

If you would like to enrol your children onto this coaching scheme, or coach, then contact:

Chris Burt, Angling Coaching Initiative, 3 Great Cob, Chelmsford, CM1 6LA on 07917 781299 or email [chris@candjb.co.uk](mailto:chris@candjb.co.uk).

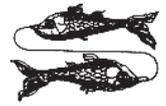






# Maldon Angling Society

## Membership renewal notification for the 2019-20 season



**Your current 2018-19 membership expires on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.** 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 15 stillwaters and 14 miles of river that we currently lease on your behalf.

We prefer to receive your payment by cheque made payable to Maldon Angling Society but you can also pay your membership fees in cash at one of our agents or by bank transfer using the following details:

Sort code: 20-54-30

Account number: 30601632

Reference: Your name and membership number

Please write 'Paid by bank transfer' on your renewal form and once the treasurer confirms receipt of your payment to the membership secretary your renewal will be processed. Unfortunately our agents cannot accept payment by credit card.

**Night fishing permits** - The number of night tickets issued will remain the same next season with 60 for Howells and 120 standard night permits. 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>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.**

At the time of writing there are only three members on the waiting list for a Howells night permit. All existing Howells night permit holders have been **reserved a place until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**. 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 £98 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 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.

JP Tackle hold a limited supply of standard night permits so these can be renewed in their shop.

Due to the restricted number and eligibility of Howells night permits they will not be sold through our agents 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 or **Angling Essentials** in Witham.

Please remember that with the exception of the Railway Pond and the Chelmer & 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.

We now have a voluntary joint coaching scheme along with KDA for junior anglers headed up by accredited Level 2 coaches. Coaching sessions are held between May and October and cater for both novices and those who already fish. There is a nominal charge for bait and tackle replacement. If you would like to enrol your children onto this coaching scheme, or would like to become a volunteer assistant to help out at some or all of the sessions, please contact Chris Burt, Angling Coaching Initiative, 3 Great Cob, Chelmsford, CM1 6LA on 07917 781299 or email [chris@candjb.co.uk](mailto:chris@candjb.co.uk).

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