



# MALDON ANGLING SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2024

### ALAN HARE

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of our Vice President Alan Hare.

For those of you who didn't know Alan, he was a very long time Committee member and Chairman of MAS and seen as a pioneer within the club for being one of the clubs very earliest "Carp anglers" back when specifically targeting Carp was in its early days in the late 70's/early 80's.

We owe Alan a debt of gratitude for all the hard work he put in over the years, mainly due to his love for MAS. It makes fishing for the Alan Hare trophy (for the largest Carp caught in a MAS Carp match) even more special, being that he was a pioneer and advocate for Carp fishing within the club.

He made the continuity of the society secure following his very high standards as Chairman.

We wish condolences to the family and all those close to Alan.

### MEMBERSHIP

First of all, a big welcome to all of our new members and a thank you to our existing members for rejoining. This year we have filled our membership cap in record time with both our day and night permits selling out in early May.

This year we introduced the Clubmate App which allowed members to join online, and it has proved a massive success. Aswell as this the hard work of Paul Kyffin and JP tackle have allowed those who still wished to join the old way to do so.

### NEW WEBSITE

As some of you may be aware we have our new website up and running. A big well done to Phil Winfield in building it along with setting up the Clubmate App.

[WWW.MALDONAS.CO.UK](http://WWW.MALDONAS.CO.UK)



### FACEBOOK PAGES

We now have three Facebook pages for members to use.

**Maldon Angling Society**

**Maldon Angling Society Matches**

**Maldon Angling Society tackle trading**

EVERY TIME I CAST MY LINE; I CONNECT WITH THE HEART OF NATURE – LINDA GREENLAW



## CLUB MATCH 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March we held our final Club match of the season at a very wet and muddy Slough House farm. 14 anglers attended with everyone catching with plenty of silvers along with 4 Tench, 2 Carp and a huge 2lb 11oz 8drn Perch.

Ian Sheperd took the win with 3 Tench and a good number of silvers caught on Maggot over ground bait on the long pole.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ian Shepard – 20lb 11oz

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Steve Willis - 17lb 10oz

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Julian Jordan – 15lb 9oz

4<sup>th</sup> Place - Kelvin Willis – 11lb 6oz



**Ian Sheperd receiving the Bob Gower Trophy**



**Steve Willis with his 2lb 11oz 8drn Perch**

## CARP MATCH 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

The club held its first Carp match of the season at Slough house farm on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April. The all-round fishing wasn't too bad with most anglers catching which has been fairly rare at the first match of the season. All in all, there was 460lb of fish caught. A big thank you to all those who took part in supporting Lucy Bowls charity and also to Gary Bayes for once again donating prizes.

1<sup>st</sup> Place = Anthony Chamberlain - 100lb.14oz

2<sup>nd</sup> Place = Dean Farmer – 90lb.13oz

3<sup>rd</sup> Place = Richard Bowers – 62lb 14oz





# CLUB RULES

Unfortunately, towards the end of last season and the start of this season we have several rules that are being broken by a very small minority of members. Rules are put in place to make fishing better and safer for our members and our fish stocks.

Anyone caught breaking rules will find themselves before the Committee and facing a possible ban.

As all members are issued with a rule book there are no excuses so, please respect the club and all our members by keeping to our rules.

## NON-MEMBERS/GUESTS

Members are reminded that guests are not allowed to visit you on our waters unless they are members, this includes children. It has been noted anglers are giving out the gate code to Non-members to visit them while they are fishing which is breaking our rules. Anyone caught doing this will face disciplinary action from the Committee. This rule was brought into place for insurance purposes and to stop members inviting Non-members on to our lakes. Non-fishing memberships are available for anyone wanting to visit while you are fishing.

## CAR PARK GATES

Unfortunately, at present this is one of our biggest problems. Members are reminded that it is offence to not only close gates but also lock them.

We have had several reports of gates being closed but not locked. Anyone caught not locking a gate will face disciplinary action from the Committee. Once our padlocks are shut the numbers must be jumbled up to lock the gate. If the numbers are not jumbled up, they will pop open again. There is a short video on our Facebook page showing members how to use our padlocks correctly.

## LITTER

It has been highlighted to the club that there has been recently litter found around some of our waters. Members are reminded that they will face a lifetime ban if they are caught leaving litter at any of our waters. This includes tea bags and cigarette butts.

## CHELMER AND BLACKWATER NAVIGATION RULES

The club is aware of a recent post on a Facebook group of an angler showing photos of fish caught from the bank at the marina at Heybridge Basin. These fish were caught from an area that is out of bounds to anglers.

Please see the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation rules in this newsletter.

## LEADERS

All types of leaders are banned on all MAS waters, these include shop brought and homemade leadcore or fused leaders. Rig checks will be carried out by our Bailiffs.

## SWIMS

The club received a report from an angler who had turned up at Slough House farm to find a member had put tackle in a swim to reserve it for his friend who was arriving later. This is unacceptable as any angler turning up at a lake is entitled to fish any swim that is empty. We understand anglers sometimes wish to fish together but to ensure this happens then arrive at the same time to avoid disappointment.

**No swims are to be reserved**



## CATCH REPORTS FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



**Jack Hughes with a Slough House farm Common**



**Malcolm Teader with a Totham Pit Mirror Carp**



**29lb Totham Pit Common for Karl Winter**



**Clarke Cooper with a 35lb Totham Pit Mirror**



**A decent Rook Hall catch for Kelvin Willis**



**Tom Owo broke his PB twice in one day. First he netted a 14lb mirror then landed this 16lb Common**





**16lb Bog Grove Common for Jack Hughes**



**Totham Pit regular Rob Poulton**



**Totham Pit Common Carp for Paul Barrow**



**Andy Thomas with a 28lb 4oz Totham pit Common**



**A Rook Hall Tench caught on Prawn for Kerry Flitter**



**Tim and Freddie Chilvers with a Totham Pit Pike**





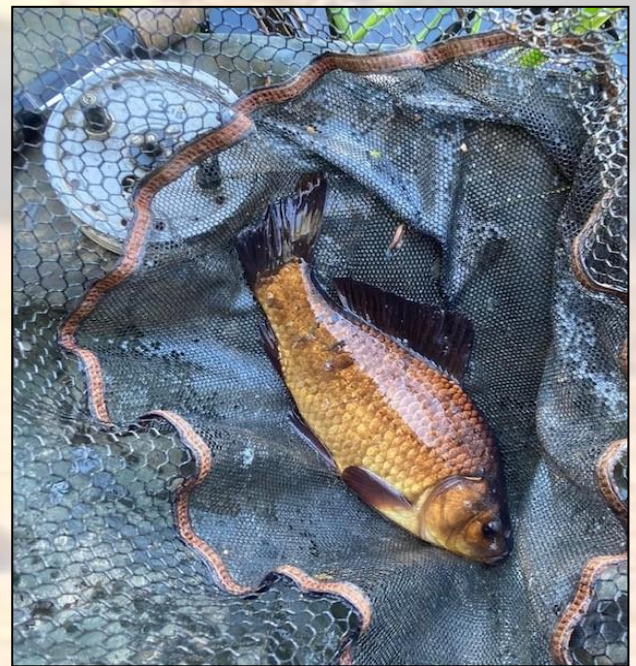
**Rook Hall Tench for Julian Jordan**



**Dean Sparks with a 26lb 6oz Common**



**Slough House farm Mirror for Malcolm Teader**



**Couple of stunning fish for Carl Pearsall**



**Rook Hall Tench for Peter Barns**





**Anthony Chamberlain took his daughter for her first MAS session, and she landed this stunning Tench.**



**Terry Bentham and his son had a cracking weekend at Slough House farm landing 32 Carp between them with the biggest being a 23lb 14oz**



**Rob Poulton had a slow night on the pit so packed up early to avoid the rain. He had seen fish showing in an area the previous day so decided to return after some breakfast and ended up with 7 fish in a short session with the biggest being an upper 20 Mirror**



# CONCESSIONARY MATCHES

## SEASON 2023/2024 FINAL STANDINGS

Here is the final Concessionary match man of the year league table. We have joint winners with both Gus Lee and Steve Willis finishing on 274 points. Congratulations to both and well done everybody else.

**G.Lee - 274pts**

**S.Willis – 274pts**

**D.Tarrel – 263pts**

**D.Nicholls – 240pts**

**D.Murton – 215pts**

**R.Harrington – 200pts**

**D.Auston – 143pts**

**L.Drury – 137pts**

**D.Harley – 134pts**

**R.Smith – 131pts**

**R.Rowbotham – 127pts**

**A.Beard – 110pts**

**B.Woolcott – 109pts**

**B.Webber – 85pts**

**S.Root – 55pts**

**S.Leaper – 55pts**

**B.Lewis – 29pts**

**B.Turner – 28pts**

**D.Carter – 27pts**

**J.Christensen – 26pts**

## CONCESSIONARY MATCH FIXTURES 2024/2025

**02/04/24 - BOG GROVE**

**09/04/24 – OAKFORD TOP LAKE**

**16/04/24 – HERON HALL**

**23/04/24 – ROOK HALL**

**30/04/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM**

**07/05/24 – TOTHAM PIT**

**14/05/24 – BOG GROVE (SILVERS ONLY)**

**21/05/24 – OAKFORD MIDDLE LAKE**

**28/05/24 – ROOK HALL**

**04/06/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM**

**11/06/24 – HERON HALL**

**18/06/24 – TESCO CANAL**

**25/06/24 – BOG GROVE**

**02/07/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM**

**09/07/24 – HERON HALL**

**16/07/24 – LITTLE LONDON**

**23/07/24 – TESCO CANAL**

**30/07/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM – PAIRS (SILVERS ONLY)**

**06/08/24 – TOTHAM PIT**

**13/08/24 – HERON HALL**

**20/08/24 – TESCO CANAL**

**27/08/24 – OAKFORD MIDDLE LAKE**

**03/09/24 – BOG GROVE**

**10/09/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM**

**17/09/24 – ROOK HALL**

**24/09/24 – PAPER MILLS**

**01/10/24 – HERON HALL**

**08/10/24 – LITTLE LONDON**

**15/10/24 – HEYBRIDGE BASIN**

**22/10/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM (SILVERS ONLY)**

**29/10/24 – BOG GROVE**



## CONCESSIONARY MATCH FIXTURES 2024/2025 CONTINUED

05/11/24 – LAKELANDS  
12/11/24 – BOREHAM BACK BRIDGE  
19/11/24 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM  
26/11/24 – HERON HALL  
03/12/24 – LAKELANDS  
10/12/24 – HEYBRIDGE BASIN  
17/12/24 – BOG GROVE CHRISTMAS MATCH  
07/01/25 – PAPER MILLS  
14/01/25 – LAKELANDS  
21/01/25 – HEYBRIDGE BASIN  
28/01/25 – BOG GROVE  
04/02/25 – COMMERCIAL FISHERY TBA  
11/02/25 – HEYBRIDGE BASIN  
18/02/25 – LAKELANDS  
25/02/25 – TESCO CANAL  
04/03/25 – PAPER MILLS  
11/03/25 – HEYBRIDGE BASIN  
18/03/25 – HERON HALL  
25/03/25 – SLOUGH HOUSE FARM – PAIRS

Our Concessionary matches are fished from 10am to 3pm with the draw taking place at 9am.

Members wishing to fish a Concessionary match must book in advance with one of the match organisers as some fisheries have limited availability.

For more information on our Concessionary matches or to book a peg then please contact one of the below:

**Dave Harley: 07845 929110**

**Les Drury: 07780 842516**

**Steve Willis: 07741 494512**

## CLUB MATCH 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL SLOUGH HOUSE WEST

Our first Club match of the new season was held at a very windy Slough House west with most anglers only realistically able to fish using a feeder.

There was several Bream landed but nobody found them in large numbers as is often the case.

There was four Carp landed which made up the weights for the first two places.

Disappointingly little in the way of silvers were caught, which made it a longer wait for fewer bites from larger fish for most anglers.

Barry Dickerson, fishing his first MAS match found two 10lb + Carp and 3 Bream to take the win.

It was also great to have young Ethan Lane join us to fish in his first Senior match, hopefully he enjoyed the day and will be back.

### Placings as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Barry Dickerson – 26lb 8oz

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Kelvin Willis – 21lb 14oz

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Tony Aldworth – 12lb 4oz

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Steve Willis – 6lb 2oz

5<sup>th</sup> Place – James Wright – 5lb 12oz

6<sup>th</sup> Place – Martin Willis – 4lb 5oz

7<sup>th</sup> Place – Gus Lee – 4lb 5oz

8<sup>th</sup> Place – Julian Jordan – 1lb 10oz

2 x DNW

For more information on our Club matches please contact one of the below:

**Kelvin Willis: 07706 047342**

**Ian Shepherd: 07584 994962**



## 2024/2025 MATCHES

07/04/24 – CLUB MATCH – **SLOUGH HOUSE WEST**  
12/05/24 – CLUB MATCH – **BOG GROVE**  
09/06/24 – TOM MARTIN MEMORIAL MATCH – **BOG GROVE**  
23/06/24 – ESSEX INTERCLUB AWAY – **MIXED WATERS**  
30/06/24 – CLUB MATCH – **ROOK HALL**  
14/07/24 – ESSEX INTERCLUB – **CAPS WATER**  
28/07/24 – PRESIDENTS MATCH – **SLOUGH HOUSE FARM/SLOUGH HOUSE WEST**  
04/08/24 – CLUB MATCH – **HERON HALL**  
11/08/24 – ESSEX INTERCLUB AWAY – **KDAA WATERS**  
08/09/24 – ESSEX INTERCLUB AWAY – **DOES AC WATERS**  
15/09/24 – CLUB MATCH – **SLOUGH HOUSE FARM**  
29/09/24 – ESSEX INTERCLUB AWAY – **RIVER CHELMER**  
06/10/24 – CLUB MATCH – **LITTLE LONDON**  
03/11/24 – ESSEX INTERCLUB AWAY - **MALDON CANAL**  
10/11/24 – MALDON CANAL SINGLES LEAGUE 1 – **HEYBRIDGE BASIN**  
24/11/24 – MALDON CANAL SINGLES LEAGUE 2 – **BENBRIDGE**  
08/12/24 – MALDON CANAL SINGLES LEAGUE 3 – **HEYBRIDGE BASIN**  
22/12/24 – MALDON CANAL SINGLES LEAGUE 4 – **BENBRIDGE**  
05/01/25 – CANAL OPEN 1 – **HEYBRIDGE BASIN**  
19/01/25 – CANAL OPEN 2 – **BENBRIDGE**  
02/02/25 – CANAL OPEN 3 – **HEYBRIDGE BASIN**  
16/02/25 – CANAL OPEN 4 – **BENBRIDGE**  
02/03/25 – CANAL OPEN 5 - **HEYBRIDGE BASIN**  
16/03/25 – CLUB MATCH – **SLOUGH HOUSE FARM**

**Tom Martin Memorial Match** – This our annual Committee and Members V Bailiffs and Members Match. This match is fished in memory of the long-term landowner of Totham Pit and Bog Grove.

**Presidents Match** – This is our annual Committee and Bailiffs V Members Match. Food and drink are always supplied to those attending at the culmination of the Match and presentation. We would also like to invite our Landowners and any Members that would like to come down after the match for a social, even if they are not competing. It's a way of saying thank you to our members and a way of meeting everyone outside of the more serious AGM scenario.

**For more information or to book a peg then please contact one of the following:**

**Kelvin Willis: 07706 047342    Ian Shepperd (Club matches only): 07584 994962**



# FISHERY MANAGEMENT

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we held a work party on Totham pit. We had a staggering 23 people turn up and everyone paid a massive part in making the day a success. There probably isn't another club about with that much dedication and commitment from its members.

We managed to rebuild the swim in floaters bay and did the path from the bottom of the slope right round to Floaters Bay, anyone that knows how bad it was with all the rain we have had will appreciate how much of a task it was. A massive thank you to the Landowner Nick Snelling for giving up his time and the use of his digger.

We also blue dyed the lake, cleared snags, cleared line out the trees, cut up fallen trees, fell some of the dangerous trees and a good burn up to clear it all.

I would personally like to thank all those who attended and the Garrett family who prepared an amazing lunch to keep us all fed.

## **Future planned works**

We will be looking at doing more work on swims at Bog Grove

More work on swims at Heron Hall

Trimming the island at Slough House Farm

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for when these works will be carried out.

***Dan Gower*** - Fishery Management officer









# JUNIOR SECTION

## A DAY AT ROOK HALL

The first junior event of the year saw the juniors tackle Rook Hall. The plan was to fish method feeders in open water for those wonderful Tench. Whips for Silvers to keep busy and a pole for all to try.

Our busiest Junior event to date, with lots of new faces and plenty of smiles all round.

A big thank you goes out to Outlaw Pro that once again supplied the bait for the event free of charge. Also, we have been donated more fishing gear, a big thank you to those who donated. Most of the gear has been given straight out but if you have a Junior in need of something then feel free to contact me.

We have some more exciting events planned for the Juniors for this season. If anyone would like some more information, then please don't hesitate in contacting me.

**Richard Turner** – Junior events co-ordinator



Issac got off to a flyer with a fantastic Tench on the method.



With the rod going straight back out onto the spot it wasn't long before Ren was doing battle with a Tench.









# FISHERY IN FOCUS – HERON HALL

Heron Hall is a pretty water of around 3 acres with a small heavily wooded island and banks of reeds and beds of lilies.

Heron Hall is one of our quietest waters and in my opinion is very underrated.

The 150 yards from the Car park to the lake does put anglers off but those who do choose to walk it can have some very productive fishing.

Heron Hall is more favoured by the match anglers and those that don't mind what species they catch as a variety of species of all sizes can be caught.

Bream to over 5lb, Ide to around 4lb, Small Tench, Roach, Rudd, a handful of small Perch, Gudgeon and a Single Grass Carp of around 17lb can be found.

The Carp in Heron Hall go up to around 20lb with rumours of bigger fish, but the Mirrors that can be found are probably the prettiest in all our waters.

Pleasure and Match weights of mainly Bream and Carp with the odd Ide have been taken to around 100lbs.

Most tactics work here with the feeder and method proving very popular and successful. Surface fishing for the Carp here in the summer can be very rewarding with multiple catches to be had once you get the fish going.

We have a rarity in Heron Hall that it is a Stillwater where Ide seem to breed as they don't tend to unless the conditions are perfect. Heron Hall has seen some work done on some swims recently with more work planned for this season.

## Recent stockings

320lb of Bream to 5lb (January 2021 )

181lb of mixed size silvers (January 2021 )

100 x Ide to 1lb 8oz (January 2023 )



FISHING IS A PASSION THAT CAN NEVER BE FULLY EXPLAINED - UNKNOWN



# NATURE REPORT

As the Wildlife officer for the club, the natural world fascinates me and we are incredibly lucky that the waters we fish enjoy an abundance of life, and it's often offers us a welcome distraction to observe if the fish aren't biting.

At the time of reading this the breeding season will be well under way. Late April and early May will have seen the Pike populations in Totham Pit and Little London already spawned, with their perfect miniature predator young big enough to take advantage of the abundance of Roach and Rudd fry just a few weeks later. Perch too will have spawned in April and as we move into May, if the water temperature is right, the Carp will be noisily spawning in the marginal reeds, thrashing the water to a foam as they jostle each other to get next to the large females to fertilise their eggs. Bream will spawn anytime from April through to June, with the latest breeding species, the enigmatic Tench, often not spawning until June or July once the water temperature is finally warm enough.

Most of our Spring migrants bird species will have already arrived and be busy setting up territories. The reed beds on Slough House will be alive with Reed and Sedge Warblers, while the secretive Cetti's warblers will give themselves away by their conspicuously loud staccato song. Migrant Whitethroats, Chiff Chaffs and willow Warblers will be singing from the hedgerows and Cuckoos will be making their presence known by their familiar call, eyeing up potential nests of smaller birds to empty and then lay their single egg, leaving their parenting duties at that to be taken up by the unsuspecting host species. The proximity of Chigborough EWT reserve to Slough House and Rook Hall should also mean that, if you're lucky, anyone night fishing will hear the beautiful song of the Nightingales that breed there.

Rook Hall will be holding a similar range of species and is still one of the last local places to see and hear the beautiful Turtle Dove, but sadly, their numbers are getting less and less every year.

Common Terns can be seen hawking over virtually any water, their distinctive call and elegant flight, reinforcing their alternative name of the 'Swallows of the sea' while the Barn Swallows and the two Martin species that breed in the UK, Sand and House should be a regular feature too, while Swifts will be screaming through the sky high above taking advantage of abundance of insects on the wing.

The halcyon blue flash of the Kingfisher will be a regular occurrence and these diminutive 'anglers' will have hungry broods to feed, and their impressive catch rate often puts ours to shame.

The many species of Duck that breed on our waters, will be trailing their large broods which unfortunately will dwindle in number, taken by predators and even Pike on Totham Pit, but several will make it to fledging and maturity every year. Our resident swans should also have a small brood in May, with their protective parents always keeping a watchful eye. Great Crested and Little Grebes will hopefully be holding a few territories and ferrying their young around on the backs as if it's the only way to travel.

May and June are probably the best time to see Hobbies hunting and catching and feeding on the various Dragonfly species over the lakes. This small, speedy Falcon still holds some good territories locally and is always a pleasure to see, especially if you see them hunting Swifts in the Summer months, one of the only predators they face in the UK.

The larger raptor species like Buzzards and red Kites, should also be regular sightings, with both species increasing their range and population in Essex. If you keep your eyes peeled you could well be lucky enough to see the much rarer Osprey on passage, especially as we move into August, having bred in other parts of the country.



The secretive Muntjac deer should also be active, but most are only seen fleetingly as they see us long before we generally see them and the males eery barking calls can sometimes be a little unnerving to any anglers' night fishing and not familiar with it. Foxes will be ever present, with the vixens having given birth in January, the cubs reaching maturity in the Autumn, ready to find new territories of their own. Again, night anglers are the most likely to hear the snuffling grunts of Badgers as blunder around some of our waters. The controversial Otters hold several ranges on the Chelmer and Blackwater and can often be seen patrolling the fringes of the river, as do Mink with the alarm calls of the local Moorhens and Ducks, who's nest they will raid, alerting us to their presence. Reptile species too, will be easier to observe, Common Lizards can sometimes be seen at many waters with Totham Pit a particularly good place, just as it is for Grass snakes that swim surprisingly well and can often make unsuspecting anglers jump as the glide past close to the bank. As you can see there's an immense variety of wildlife it's all around us and all we have to do is look. So, keep your eyes open and enjoy the abundance of nature we're privileged enough to share our waters with.

Finally, if anybody sees an animal or bird in distress on any of our waters, please don't hesitate to call me on 07732 579820 and I'll try to help where I can. Alternatively, please note the useful numbers below:

**Laura Cheskin, local wildlife rescue: 07811 307162**

**Swan Rescue, Salcott: 01621 868469**

All the best & tight lines to you all.

**Nic Lindsell, MAS Wildlife officer**





# MY ANGLING JOURNEY

Hi. I'm your MAS Match Secretary and Rulebook Secretary.

I've been a member of MAS for most of my living memory, save for a few years in which I lived and worked abroad.

I'm one of those lucky anglers who was brought into fishing by their dad at a very young age. Learning right from the very basics, I've since been able to learn more for myself, enough to have some very good results on our waters. We'll come to that later...

I was pretty much born into a match anglers' style of fishing. With my dad, Steve, being a very good match angler himself, I suppose that with his guidance I stood a good chance that I could carry on the family tradition. Match fishing has always been my first love and something that I haven't really deviated from too much in my angling lifetime. I find the challenge of being able to winkle out as much weight in fish in a 5-hour period the biggest and most fun challenge, regardless of species or size of fish. I guess you could say I like to be a busy, thinking type angler. Sitting it out on leads was never going to be the type of fishing for me. Don't get me wrong, I've nothing against chucking out a feeder, but I'll always be looking to bring the fish to me and not just waiting for them to come along. Very much the match angler's mindset I suppose.

The earliest memories I have were fishing on the concrete apron at Beeleigh or at the Speeney with my dad. I was under 10, and I loved it!

Not sure if dad loved me loving it too much sometimes, as I remember some almighty tangles! I'm sure he looked forward to days where he didn't have to take me more than he did taking me sometimes, but those days we did spend together put me in great stead for the future.

Back then, poles were a new thing, so I learned the waggler or stick float on the river or canal in those early days. I still prefer to pull out a waggler rod to a pole sometimes nowadays.

One particular highlight of those younger years is that I seem to remember catching a small Crucian Carp out of the river at the Speeney. Something I've never seen or heard of since.

Roach were nearly always the target species though, as that is dad's favourite species, so I grew to love the Roach and how to catch those over and above anything else really.

The next stage in my angling life was when Bob Gower, our now vice-president decided to resurrect the club junior match fishing section, after a few years of having no junior section or matches at all.

I learned that I loved to compete and wasn't too bad at it either. Bobs own Sons Dan and Sam were ever presents, along with a group of around ten to a dozen of us for most matches. I thoroughly enjoyed them and Bob kind of instilled into us that we must enjoy it above anything else. We always took home something at the end, even if it was just a simple thing like a disgorgers, but it kept us wanting to come back.

Dad used to help out on junior Match days along with the other dads. We even had senior members who were also good match anglers come and guide us, along with members of the big local match group of the time, The Purple Patch.





We quickly became juniors that fished to a pretty high standard. I wouldn't say that I was the best of them at that time, but I was pretty handy. Some of the better lads were competing in and winning adult matches already.

I think Bob saw our progress was pretty good, so soon decided that he wanted us to enter into some bigger regional matches.

He first took us to the East of England Junior pairs at Willen Lake in Milton Keynes. It was all our first big match, I don't think anyone did great, but I think we all caught and enjoyed the experience. Enough to want to taste some more anyway.

Next was British Youth Pole Championship. It was supposed to be at Stonebridge lock on the river Lea which really would have suited our skills, mostly having been brought up on the canal.

Unfortunately, it got moved to a lake in St Albans due to masses of rainfall, so it was a bit gutting but I think our A team got a 3<sup>rd</sup> place which was fantastic!

The following year it was on the Lea. The event had grown, teams like DAM Dorking were in it now. Heavily sponsored and with a team led by some national heroes. A young Will Raison was even there. It was quite intimidating, and we were a small local team from Maldon.

Our A team only went and won it! I believe one of our anglers even beat Will Raison off the next peg which was a massive achievement. He was already doing articles in the angling press even at that age, he was that good.

I was in the B team, and we came 3<sup>rd</sup> I managed to win my section with 2 Perch for 5.5oz but I was chuffed to bits! Prizes were seat boxes, poles, all sorts, and we got to take our pick. It was an amazing day!

After this point I had got to the age of 16. Time to have to compete with the adults. A big and daunting step for any youngster.

I quickly settled in and at the age of 17 I got into the MAS Essex Interclub Team. I had an amazing first season, managing to win the individual points competition at my first attempt. I think 3 section wins, 2 seconds and a 4<sup>th</sup> in 6 matches. Narrowly missing out on the Knockout title in the last Match against a CAPS angler

By the age of 18 I think "education" had become more important, by that I mean beer and girls probably lol. But I moved away for Uni and fishing took a back seat for a few years, so I don't think I ever defended that title. So, I guess I will be this year which will be my 1<sup>st</sup> year in the Essex Interclub since.



After Uni I moved to Sweden for nearly 3 years and loved fishing over there. I lived 100km South of the Arctic Circle, so way up North! Fishing was never far away. I had a boat on a lake the size of a sea, you couldn't see the end of it. I enjoyed catching Roach, Perch, Pike. That's mainly all there is up that far North, but the lake also had Burbot in it. Unfortunately, I never caught one.

I used to Salmon fish the Skelleftea River in the Warmer months. I only ever caught one but had plenty of Sea Trout. That was on lures.

I even entered ice fishing competitions in the winter. What an art that is! You've never seen so many fish come up through a small hole in the ice. Matches would be won with over 15kg of mainly Roach and Perch. I always caught but could never compete with those guys.



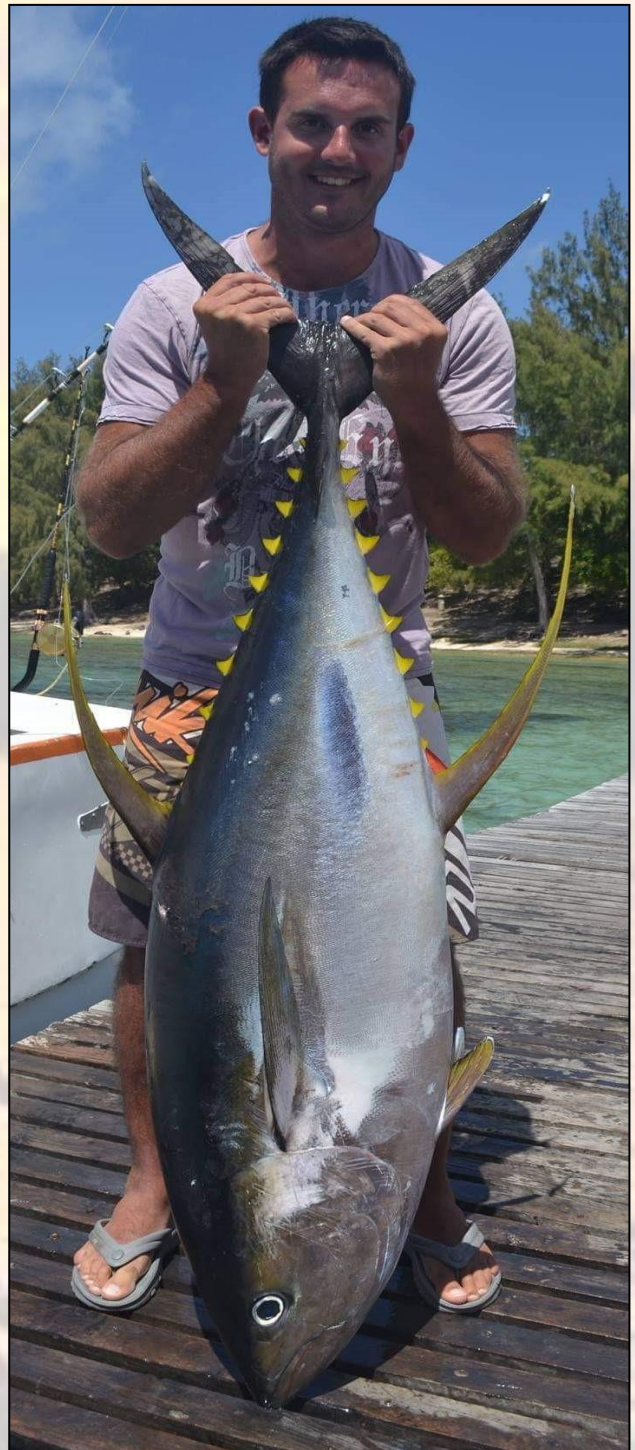
I moved to Crete for a summer season next and enjoyed catching various pretty sea fish off the rocks, including some nice Bass. Then I went away and worked on cruise ships where I was lucky enough to travel the world and get out on quite a few deep-sea Trolling trips. I've had some massive Dorado, Wahoo, Barracuda, plenty of Smallish Tuna on those trips but never anything massive. I try to get out on deep sea trips wherever I go in the world, even now. My biggest ever fish to date is a 108kg Yellowfin Tuna from Mauritius.

After my travelling around, I've settled back in Maldon and settled back into the club I love. In 2009 (I think) I became MAS Match Secretary for about 3 years, following in the footsteps of my dad who had also been long term on the MAS Committee years ago. I stopped in 2012 when I was forced to due to a work choice. Just having won the Presidents match with 110lb 10oz from Beckingham Hall. Beating the whole 12-man opposition on my own. This was my last match of that run on the Committee and a personal highlight.

In 2021 work took a turn for the better and I was able to return to my former role of MAS Match Secretary, something I missed massively. I was so happy to return and try to revive MAS's match scene a bit. Something I believe I have achieved in my short stint, although with limited success. I've had to chop and change a bit to keep up interest, but I've always done the best I can.

Please come and join the matches even if you're a novice, you have to start somewhere. The guys are brilliant and always happy to help. It's more about the banter and enjoying the company of others than anything else. For only £10 a head it's never serious.

Onto the actual fish now, and other than match fishing, you will find me mostly practicing fir matches, or at Totham Pit trying to hunt down Specimen Tench and Bream. I've never really been much into Carp but don't mind them as by-catch. I was brought up in a time where there was barely any Carp anywhere. I do enjoy a day on the Pellet Waggler for them in the Summer though.





Personal MAS PB's and great sessions are...

- Roach 2lb 1oz from Totham Pit
- Bream 10lb 4oz from Totham Pit and Little London. Also 3 Bream for a shade under 30lb from Little London.
- 28 Bream, 1 Carp and 3 Eels for 228lb from Totham Pit.
- 42 Bream from Heron Hall.
- 33 Bream from Slough West.
- Tench 8lb 1oz from Totham Pit.
- 28 Tench, all over 2.5lb from Rook Hall.
- Four 7lb Tench and one 8lb Tench from Totham Pit in one session.
- Ide 3lb 13oz from Heron Hall.
- Pike 17lb 8oz from Totham Pit.
- Eel 4lb 1oz from Totham Pit
- Rudd over 1lb from Bog Grove (years ago)
- Carp 20lb 10oz from the Long Lake on the Pellet Waggler.
- 110lb of Waggler caught Carp from Beckingham Hall to win a match.
- 44 Carp in a 5-hour session from Bog Grove on Pellet Waggler (When it had many more Carp in)

Other personal bests are....

- 9lb 6oz Barbel from the Severn
- 5lb 11oz Chub from the Severn

That's me, hope I haven't bored you too much. MAS is and always has been a fantastic friendly club and I enjoy nothing more than seeing people catch, helping people catch and to put them on fish and to see the results. So, if there's anything I can do to help, then please pop me over a message.

Over and out!

*Kelvin Willis*





## CHELMER AND BLACKWATER NAVIGATION RULES

- 1) Anglers must comply with Environment Agency bylaws & hold a valid rod licence for the number of rods in use.
- 2) Close season applies 15<sup>th</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> June inclusive.
- 3) Anglers using the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation do so at their own risk. Maldon Angling Society accepts no responsibility or liability for the loss of, or damage to any tackle, property, or personal possessions.
- 4) Anglers are responsible both for keeping their swim and surrounding area free from litter.
- 5) Anglers must not dig swims into the bank.
- 6) No angler is permitted to kill or take away any fish.
- 7) No fish to be kept in captivity for longer than 6 hours and any fish showing signs or distress should be returned immediately.
- 8) No fires are allowed on the banks.
- 9) Where a match is advertised, the stretch of water will be closed for fishing from both banks for 2 hours before and 1 hour after the match.
- 10) The use of live baits is not permitted.
- 11) Anglers fishing for Carp and Pike must use an unhooking mat.
- 12) Hooks and bait must be removed from the water if the swim is left for any reason.
- 13) Carp sacks are not to be used & Carp over 5lbs will not be retained by any method, except during officially booked matches.
- 14) Anglers must be in possession of a suitably sized landing net.
- 15) No fishing within 30 meters of any lock, nor within 15 meters of any bridge, weir, wharf, landing stage, permanent mooring, or any other navigational structure.
- 16) No fishing on that part of the waterway just above Daisy meadow car park & Heybridge Basin.
- 17) No fishing between Paper Mill Road bridge & the upstream end of the towpath moorings at papermill.
- 18) No fishing on the waterway adjacent to Treasure Island at Little Baddow.
- 19) No fishing on the part of waterway adjacent to the south bank between Hall bridge Heybridge & Heybridge Basin.
- 20) No angler is to be inconsiderate or abusive towards other users of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation.
- 21) Anglers must not obstruct the towpath.



# CLUB OFFICERS AND BAILIFFS

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Paul Kyffin – Chairman and Membership**

**Secretary:**

**Contact number: 01621 892152**

**Peter Harden – Vice chairman and Deputy**

**Club Welfare Officer:**

**Contact number: 07754 536639**

**Simon Greengrass – Treasurer:**

**Contact number: 07305 557976**

**Peter Garrett – Secretary:**

**Contact number: 07949 474782**

**Iain Fraser – Minutes Secretary and Club**

**Welfare Officer:**

**Contact number: 01245 328334**

**Dan Gower – Fishery Management Officer:**

**Contact number: 07793 278430**

**Kelvin Willis – Match Secretary:**

**Contact number: 07706 047342**

**Phil Winfield – Webmaster and Online**

**Membership:**

**Contact number: 07817 856033**

**Richard Turner – Junior Events Co-Ordinator:**

**Contact number: 07460 383368**

**Tony Hayden – Head Bailiff:**

**Contact number: 07878 532087**

**Andy Thomas – Publicity Secretary:**

**Contact number: 07858 791728**

**Nic Lindsell – Wildlife Officer:**

**Contact number: 07732 579820**

**Paul Kemp – Assistant Fishery Management Officer:**

**Contact number: 01621 857427**

**Dean Cowell – Assistant Fishery Management Officer:**

**Contact number: 07958 388601**

## MAS STILLWATER BAILIFFS

**Head Bailiff: Tony Hayden 07878 532087**

**Bog Grove:**

Tony Hayden: 07878 532087

David Whitney: 07738 098295

Graham Dack: 07939 013342

Aaron Crawford/Anna Pringle: 07732 311756

Tony McQueen: 07841 647808

**Brick Kiln Pond:**

Aaron Cheverall: 07934 603066

Rob Poulton: 07825 684683

**Heron Hall:**

Peter Garrett: 07949 474782

Graham Holmes: 07798 625312

**Little London:**

Graham Holmes: 07798 625312

**Railway Pond:**

Mark Kingswell: 07885 400731

Rob Poulton: 07825 684683

Aaron Crawford/Anna Pringle: 07732 311756

**Rook Hall:**

Peter Harden: 07754 536639

**Slough House Farm Reservoir:**

David Peterson: 07519 609647

Aaron Cheverall: 07934 603066

Roland Hughes: 07864 569983

**Slough House West:**

David Peterson: 07519 609647

David McGrath/Finn McGrath: 07944 698683

Roland Hughes: 07864 569983

**Totham Pit:**

Tony Hayden: 07878 532087

David Whitney: 07738 098295

Graham Dack: 07939 013342

Aaron Crawford/Anna Pringle: 07732 311756

Aaron Cheverall: 07934 603066

**Additional Bailiffs (Any water):**

Kelvin Willis: 07706 047342

Nic Lindsell: 07732 579820

Andy Thomas: 07858 79128



## MAS RIVER BAILIFFS

### Chelmer and Blackwater Canal

#### Day Ticket Bailiffs ):

Iain Fraser: 07531 288554

Mike Chaplin: 07871 681176

### River Blackwater

#### (Wickham Bishops/Langford):

Iain Fraser: 07531 288554

Mike Chaplin: 07871 681176



## UNHOOKING LARGE FISH

- Ensure you have your scales, weigh sling, fish treatment, a bucket of water and forceps all available before removing the fish from the water.
- If you are photographing the fish, then ensure your camera is set up before the fish is removed from the water. The last thing you want is a fish flapping about on the unhooking mat while you set up your camera.
- If possible, remove the hook while the fish is in the net in the water.
- Ensure your unhooking mat is always wet.
- Before you lift the net with the fish in from the water ensure the fins on the fish are flat
- Once the fish is on the unhooking mat ensure it is always kept wet
- Treat the hook hole or any other marks with Fish treatment.
- Ensure your unhooking mat is ALWAYS under the fish while weighing and photographing the fish.
- When returning the fish to the water ensure you carry it back in your sling or retainer. NEVER carry a fish in your hands.
- Always ensure your fish is out of the water for the least amount of time possible.

## LEPTOSPIROSIS

Although Weils disease is extremely rare it is something all anglers should be aware of. Weils disease (Leptospirosis) can be a serious illness requiring hospital treatment and can lead to kidney and liver failure. It is a bacterial infection that is carried in Rat urine which contaminates water and the banks of rivers and lakes. One patient in 19 dies from it. The most common symptoms are a temperature, an influenza-like illness with severe headaches, sometimes meningitis and joint muscle pains (pains in the calf muscles are often particularly noticeable). These symptoms normally start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water and if caught early it can be treated.

If you show any of the symptoms after fishing, then please tell your doctor you may have been exposed to Leptospirosis so they can consider this as a diagnosis.

### What precautions to take:

Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or use gloves.

Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Do not put your hands in your mouth after immersing in water.

Never place bait or fishing line in your mouth

Never leave food on the floor and always cover or wrap it.





# Protect fisheries by disinfecting your angling equipment



Centre for Environment  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Science

## Equipment is a big risk in transferring diseases

England and Wales has over 10,000 registered fisheries and 1 million regular anglers. One of the biggest threats to the angling industry is the transfer of disease between fisheries through fish movements or equipment.

Fishery managers can only do so much to reduce the risk of disease transmission and the spread of non-native species between fisheries, so anglers must do all they can to safeguard the future of their sport.

It has been proven that angling equipment poses a major risk in the transfer of diseases between fisheries. A recent Cefas experiment found that nets infected with KHV spread the disease to healthy fish. Other studies have found a range of fish pathogens and invasive species can also be spread by angling equipment.

Critically, once diseases are present in a fishery they are often impossible to treat. They have a detrimental effect to fish populations and the wider aquatic ecosystem. Therefore preventing the spread of diseases is vital to safeguard the fisheries industry.

You can help by using disinfectant to thoroughly disinfect your equipment between angling trips. This kills disease pathogens which stops the spread of disease. If you cannot use chemical disinfectants, you can dry and expose your equipment to UV light when at home. But this is not as reliable as the use of disinfectant and may not kill all disease pathogens.



## What equipment to disinfect

It's not always practical to disinfect all your equipment so focus on the items which are high risk, especially those that touch fish or water.

Therefore check, clean, disinfect and dry:

- landing nets
- keep nets
- unhooking mats
- boots
- weigh slings

This helps stop your equipment spreading water, pathogens, or animals between fisheries.





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