

Ron's Wrestling Ramblings

Join Ron Historyo and add your comments in the forum

Chelsea Palace

<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/1935-chelsea-palace-theatre>



Ron

If you picture the Free Trade Hall Manchester The Chelsea Palace Theatre was similar in that the capacity was 2500 or so. Seating included pits, stalls and a upper gallery. Built 1902 and eventually converted to an ITV studio.

A promoter Alf Allen had the pub, The Black Prince on Walworth Road and he started a wrestling venture in March 1935 at this venue. 39 shows later he ended up in court. It seems a wrestler Joe Sheppard fronted a consortium, although he was the main provider of wrestlers, and paid Alf Allen £50 cash to run the shows with Allen's name on the advertising.

For London in 1935 it was all a bridge too far. The shows were on a Sunday. I also found two shows with lady wrestlers, not sure if these are the earliest ever since Wrestling's inception in December 1930. But if not I am going to claim its was certainly the first masked lady wrestler I have come across in Britain.

Though Kayfabe, choking out her opponent brutally was just too much for some people as were accusations of some of the bouts looking fixed and not proper sport.

Of course Sheppard was Johanfesson and he heavily featured his son Jack Quesick. But the wrestlers he brought in were good. Even Riley and Atherton came with their bout probably practiced to perfection.

Without the galleries working it's hard to show 39 bills but I have picked a few out and you get the feel of some names that I have only spotted before on Ray's index. A new one on me was the Flying Bullet.

Did not know Eric Fisher was Frankenstein (the Yorkshire Pudding). White Hawk? (Not White Owl). Madcap Mad Carter? Scarface . Leo Quarter Nelson .

Hope you enjoy the bills. Two weeks into 1936 the venture stopped.

**CHELSEA PALACE
THEATRE**
Promoter: ALF ALLEN.
Offices: Phone: BOP 3423

ALL - IN WRESTLING

**SUNDAY EVENING,
MARCH 18, 1935**

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
60 minutes 2 falls 2 wins 2 nos.
Johan FESSON v Dave ARMSTRONG

GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
60 minutes 2 falls 2 wins 2 nos.
Ivan ZARYNOFF v Bill COLEMAN

**THE SENSATION OF THE YEAR,
LADY WRESTLERS.
A FIGHT TO A FINISH.**

Miss Maud McVIE
England Open Challenge to all England

Miss Maggie MURPHY
Ireland Maggie says Ireland for ever

SPECIAL MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST
60 minutes 2 falls 2 wins 2 nos.
Babe QUESICK v Tiger HADRILL

GREAT MIDDLEWEIGHT FIGHT
60 minutes 2 falls 2 wins 2 nos.
Pat HOWARD v Jim MALONY

PRICES, Including Tax.
Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle
46 3-2-16 1/-
Seats may be booked at the Box Office.
Phone: PLAxman 9618.
M.C.—GUS ELTON.

**CHELSEA PALACE
THEATRE**
Promoter: ALF ALLEN. Phone: BOP 3423

ALL - IN WRESTLING

SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 21.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

**Personal appearance of the Heavyweight
Champion of the British Empire,
BONNY MUIR**

**15st. 3lb. Heavyweight Champion of
Australia and British Empire v
GARY CURRIE**

**15st. The Famous Lumberjack
20st. Heavyweight SMASH-UP
BULLDOG BILL GARNON**

**Heavyweight Champion of Wales v
AGHMET ALI**

**Stamboul, Turkey
Great LIGHT Heavyweight FIGHT
GAB CASHFORD (U.S.A.)**

LEO-QUARTER-NELSON London

**GREAT MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST
THE FLYING BULLETT (Blackfriars)**

TIGER HARRIS (London)
£10 a side. £10 a side.

SPARKS (The Referee)

BIG-BOY WADE (Southend)
This contest is £10 a side and Promoter's
Purse winner take all. No time limit.

M.C.—GUS ELTON

PRICES, Including Tax.
Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle
46 3-2-16 1/-
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Phone: PLAXMAN 9618. 1935

**CHELSEA PALACE
THEATRE**
Promoter: ALF ALLEN. Phone: BOP 3423

ALL - IN WRESTLING

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 5.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

Smashing Heavyweight Contest.

DESMOND JEANS

v

JIM REGAN

International Heavyweight Contest.

JOHAN FESSON

v

CARL FERDINAND

Special Light Heavyweight Contest.

MADCAP MAD CARTER (U.S.A.)

v

HELL CAT HARRIS (London)

**By Special Request. Sensational Middle-
weight SMASH-UP**

SPARKS v GAB CASHFORD

Great Light Heavyweight Contest.

JACK GOLDSSTONE (Southend)

v

TONY DEMARTO

Italian Mat Mauler.

v

M.C.—GUS ELTON.

PRICES, Including Tax.

Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle

46 3-2-16 1/-

Seats may be booked at the Box Office.

Phone: PLAXMAN 9618. 1935

**CHELSEA PALACE
THEATRE**
Promoter: ALF ALLEN. Phone: BOP 3423

ALL - IN WRESTLING

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 2.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT.

DAVE ARMSTRONG (Chippington) v

BATTLING PHIL SIKI

British West Indies Has won his last

37 contests.

GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT.

BILLY RILEY

British Empire Champion and Belt

holder v

JACK ATHERTON (Doncaster)

v

FIGHT OF PILOTS.

LITTLE HACKENSMITH v **HALPERN**

Champion of the World. **AUSTRIA.**

SPECIAL MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST.

SAYAS PAPAGEORGIOU

The strongest man in the world. **4500**

challenge for his equal v

SCARFACE (London)

v

SPECIAL MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT.

JIM MALONEY (Ireland) v

GINGER RAWLINGS (London)

v

M.C.—GUS ELTON.

PRICES, Including Tax.

Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle

46 3-2-16 1/-

Seats may be booked at the Box Office.

Phone: PLAXMAN 9618. 1935

**CHELSEA PALACE
THEATRE**
Promoter: ALF ALLEN. Phone: BOP 3423

ALL - IN WRESTLING

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 26.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

**SMASHING INTERNATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT
CONTEST.**

MITCHELL GILL

Bradford Contender for the Heavy-
weight Championship v

EX-P.O. SMITH

USA Ex-Heavyweight Champion of
the American Navy.

GREAT LIGHTWEIGHT CONTEST.

TREVOR REES (London) v

FLYING BULLETT

SMASHING FIGHT.

BOB FIFE

Canadian Cyclone v

ERIC FISHER

Yorkshire.

INTERNATIONAL FIGHT.

SAILOR BARNES v

MAD-CAP MAD CARTER

U.S.A.

LADY WRESTLERS.

Personal Appearance of the

MASKED LADY WRESTLER

Who is she? v

MISS CONNIE LANDI

Middleweight Champion of Italy.

PRICES, Including Tax.

Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle

46 3-2-16 1/-

Seats may be booked at the Box Office.

Phone: PLAXMAN 9618. 1935

All-In Wrestling

1935 AT

**CHELSEA
PALACE THEATRE,**
King's Road, S.W.

Book your seats in advance at the Box
Office. Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT ALL-IN FIGHT
TONY MANGELLI (The Italian Thunderbolt) v
BIG BEN (The Canadian Lumberjack).

HEAVYWEIGHT CLASH
FRANKENSTEIN FISHER (The Yorkshire Puddin) v
TOM WHALLEY (The Lancashire Tip).

BY SPECIAL REQUEST
TONY DEMARTO (Mussolini's Boy Friend) v
THE FLYING BULLETT (Blackfriars).

FIGHT OF FIGHTS.
RICHARD WILLS (Winner of the Light-Heavyweight Cham-
pionship of England and Gold Belt) v
BABE QUESICK (Brixton).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST.
OTTO ZAMMER (The Famous German Light-Heavyweight) v
WHITE HAWK (Cumberland).

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Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle
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eye in any case, but then I view the year: 1935: so he was living off this after 17 years? Ivan Zarynoff in 1935: several other similar names would follow over the decades. Was he the originator? Mr Jack Pye?

Ron

Enjoy some more. I have seen the Question Mark before but not many times.

Cub Panther Pye, Young Bull I think son of Bull Coleman, Young De Rel and Peter Gotham, Ronald Roman Public Schoolboy and Rugby player. Quantrill. Barney Goldstone. Tulley Marshall USA.

<p>CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE Promoter: ALF ALLEY. Phone: BOP 2422</p> <p>ALL-IN WRESTLING SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 14. Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT THE IRON DUKE London's Own v. HALF NELSON KEYS 17th. Off. Has fought over 200 contests.</p> <p>SPECIAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. CHICK ROLFE From the Bowery, New York v. THE "?" FROM CAMBRIDGE This fight will be worth seeing.</p> <p>SMASHING MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENT. CHAIN PEASON Welterweight Champion of Australia v. AL BAUMERS Birmingham. A boy who loves a fight.</p> <p>GREAT MIDDLEWEIGHT FIGHT. JACK GOLDSTONE (Southend).</p> <p>GORDON SHAW (Plymouth).</p> <p>SPECIAL MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT. TULLY MARSHALL Late of the U.S.A. Army v. NORMAN STEWART The Middleweight Champion of Scotland.</p> <p>M.C. GUS ELTON. PRICES, including Tax. Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/- Seats may be booked at the Box Office. Phone: PLAXMAN 9618. 1935</p>	<p>A MAN'S SPORT WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1935 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10 Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT ALL-IN FIGHT. JACK PANTHER PYE Northern Champion of Great Britain v. MIKE O'SULLIVAN Official Heavyweight Champion of Ireland</p> <p>GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. TONY BAER Heavyweight Champion of Scotland v. MAND LAGREN The famous Swedish mat mauver. "ENORMOUS ATTRACTION."</p> <p>TIGER SEAL Welterweight Champion of Kent v. JOHNNY CHEESEMAN Southern Area Middleweight Champion.</p> <p>LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CLASH. ALF MADRILL The famous blonde tiger v. BOUGH-HOUSE QUANTRILL Southend</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. RED DEVIL Famous International Footballer v. BIG BOY WADE The New London Sensation.</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/-</p>	<p>A MAN'S SPORT WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1935 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 17 Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT ALL-IN FIGHT. DAVE ARMSTRONG The famous Chippington Chicken v. CORDITE CONROY The Wigan Thunderbolt.</p> <p>HEAVYWEIGHT CLASH. JACK STANLEY Imperial Es-heavyweight boxing champion v. BULL COLEMAN London 7 times British Heavyweight Champion.</p> <p>"ENORMOUS ATTRACTION." SMASHING MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT. YOUNG BULL The new London sensation v. PEDRO DE ROCHE The famous Spanish Bull Fighter.</p> <p>SENSATIONAL MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENT. HARRY SMITH The Pitman Hercules v. PETER DODDS (Plymouth). By Special Request.</p> <p>MACK ENGLAND (New Zealand) v. TREVOR REES (London).</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/-</p>	<p>A MAN'S SPORT WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1935 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24. Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>A FIGHT TO A FINISH. JACK PYE A Human Mirror v. BIG BEN The Canadian Lumberjack.</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL FIGHT. TONY BAER 1st heavyweight Champion of Scotland v. PHIL SIKI (West Indies)</p> <p>"ENORMOUS ATTRACTION." YOUNG DE REL Lightweight Champion of the North of England v.</p> <p>GUS PANTHER PYE The New Sensation from Doncaster.</p> <p>FIGHT TO A FINISH. EX-GUARDSMAN WILKINSON The Society Entertainer v. LIGHTNING BANE QUENBICK The Rudolph Valentine of the mat.</p> <p>GREAT MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT. BILL MANN (the Welsh Taraway) v. EVIL TROWER The New London Sensation.</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/- M.O. in attendance.</p>
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<p>A MAN'S SPORT, WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1935 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, September 8. Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>BLACK v. WHITE CLASSIC. FRANCIS ST. GREGORY The Leading Contender for British Heavyweight Championship v. BATTLING PHIL SIKI British West Indies.</p> <p>GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT. BULLDOG BILL GARNON Wales. Ex-Heavyweight Champion of Great Britain v. THE GREAT ANACONDA Sweden.</p> <p>FIGHT OF FIGHTS. TED HAMMOND (Woolwich) v. BILL MANN (Wales).</p> <p>TWO SWELLS MEET. RED JAKES (Plumstead) v. AL SMITH (Plymouth).</p> <p>SPECIAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. BARNEY GOLDSTONE (Southend) v. PETER DODDS (Brixton)</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/- M.O. in attendance.</p>	<p>A MAN'S SPORT, WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1935 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, September 15. Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>GREAT INTERNATIONAL CONTENT. GASTON GHEYAERT Official Heavyweight Champion of France 4100 Challenge to all Heavyweights v. BULL-DOG BILL GARNON Official Heavyweight Champion of Wales</p> <p>SPECIAL LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. GARRY SURRE Light-Heavyweight Champion of Australia A Great two-handed Fighter v. ERIK BIG BEN The Canadian Lumberjack</p> <p>GREAT LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. YOUNG BULL The new London sensation v. JOE WILMOTT The Herne Hill Marvel</p> <p>SPECIAL LIGHTWEIGHT CONTENT. ANDREW BEATTY Middleweight Champion of the North v. JIM MALONEY The Irish Thunderbolt</p> <p>EXCITING AND EXCITING CONTENT. BABE QUENBICK London's own Wrestling genius v. AL GAUNERS (Birmingham)</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/- M.O. in attendance.</p>	<p>A MAN'S SPORT, WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1935 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, September 22. Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>GREAT INTERNATIONAL LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. "MATBUKA" World's Champion Ju-Jitsu Wrestler v. GEORGE GREGORY Official Light-Heavyweight Champion of the North of England and Gold Belt holder</p> <p>SMASHING LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. BARNEY GOLDSTONE The bad boy from Southend v. ALBERTO TUNEBI First appearance in this country of Italy's own wrestling genius</p> <p>YOUNG FISHER Poplar's Fighting machine v. MACK ENGLAND The New Zealand Taraway</p> <p>GREAT LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENT. CAB GASHFORD (U.S.A.) v. RONALD ROMAN Mobile Taraway and Rubber Star</p> <p>SMASHING MIDDLEWEIGHT CLASH. BABE QUENBICK London's own wrestling genius v. THE WHITE HAWK (Cumberland)</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/-</p>	<p>A MAN'S SPORT WOMEN ADORE!! All-In Wrestling 1936 AT CHELSEA PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.</p> <p>Book your seats in advance at the Box Office, Phone: PLAXMAN 9618.</p> <p>SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5. Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>GREAT NEEDLE CONTENT. THE GREAT ANACONDA The Famous Snake King v. ROUGH-HOUSE KING CURTIS The Holloway Assasin.</p> <p>HEAVYWEIGHT CLASH. MARTIN BUTCH The Famous Australian Grappler v. CORDITE CONROY The Wigan Thunderbolt.</p> <p>BY SPECIAL REQUEST. TED HAMMOND The Woolwich Terror v. BILL MANN The Welsh Taraway.</p> <p>FIGHT OF FIGHTS. CARL FERDINAND The Famous German Ace v. PHIL SIKI (West Indies)</p> <p>SENSATIONAL CHALLENGE CONTENT. BEN COHEN (Clapham) v. PETER GOTHAM (Plymouth)</p> <p>PRICES, including Tax— Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle 4/- 3/- 2/- 1/6 1/- M.O. in attendance.</p>
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A MAN'S SPORT WOMEN ADORE!!

All-In Wrestling

1935 AT CHELSEA

PALACE THEATRE, King's Road, S.W.

Book your seats in advance at the Box Office. Phone: PLAXman 9618.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1.
Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CLASH.
HELL-CAT FISHER
The Frankenstein of the Mat v **TONY MANCELLI**
The Italian Thunderbolt.
SENSATION OF THE YEAR.
Sculptor v Portrait Painter.

BEARDED WRESTLER
(Patrick O'Connor). The world's famous
Portrait Painter v **SAM RABIN**
London. The Jewish Light-Heavyweight
Champion of Great Britain.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CLASH.
FRITZ SHULTZ
The Famous Blonde German Ace v **TREVOR REES**
The New London Sensation.

INTERNATIONAL FIGHT.
CARL FERDINAND
The famous German mat mauler v **SPARKS** (The Referee)

GREAT MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST.
TIGER HARRIS
This guy hates referees v **TOMMY RIGBY** (Burnley)

PRICES. Including Tax—
Ringside Stalls Circle Pit Upper Circle
4 6 3- 2- 1 6 1-
Men in attendance. Referee Sparks.

The Ost

Young Bull was usually Vic Coleman but hard to say always. Neat stuff there Ron.

Ron

Often come across this Bearded Wrestler in the records, but not so sure that I knew he was Patrick O'Connor. Different of course to the Bearded Monarch, Ken Davies. In the first set of bills on June 6th Jack Dale is billed as Southern Area champ at Middleweight.

Jack Pye is also there as Northern heavyweight champ. Could it be that Johanfesson was the originator of these titles and the way Jack Quesick his son was there at the start of Dale Martins, it makes me wonder if Dale Martins origins lay in the work of Johanfesson who apparently in the 1930's was one of the few promoters with a license in London.

Dale Martins for sure adopted these Southern area titles.

Quesick held one for a long time and it went to McManus.

Hack

What a splendid piece of writing and bit of history for us there Ron. Identifying the Bearded Wrestler was the cherry on the cake.

Anglo Italian

I like that idea that The Southern Area Welterweight title was some kind of legacy, of greater historical prestige than other titles. I wonder if that really was the case?

Ron

I can find Jack Dale billed as Champion of the South in 1934 but specifically "Southern Area Champ" I think this at Chelsea in 1935 might be the first find and I think it is a copy of Boxing.

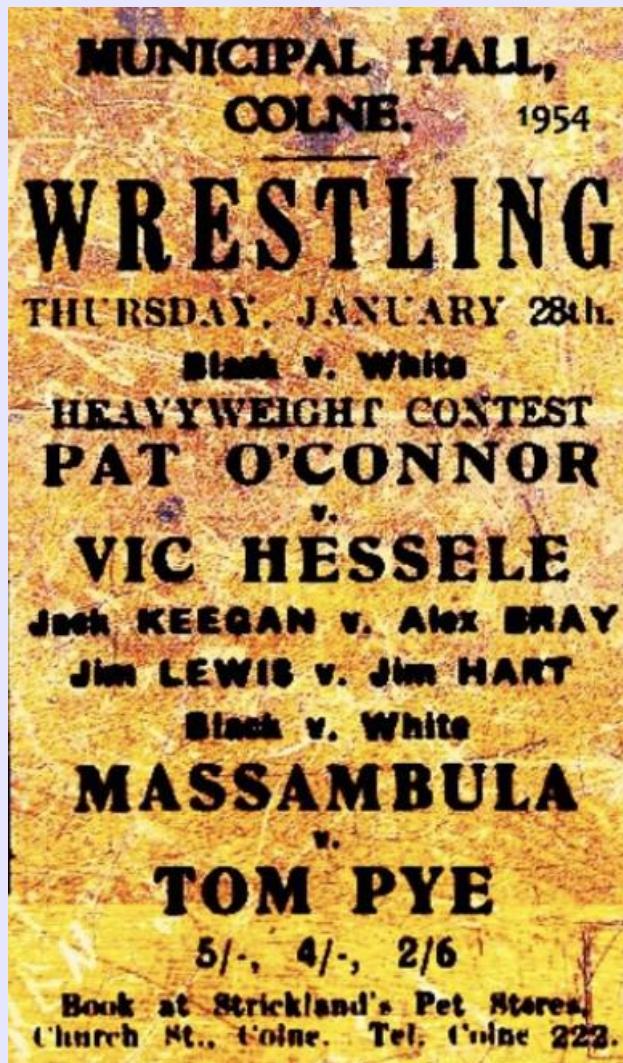
Before the war Johanfesson and his son Quesick (mother's maiden name) were of Chesterfield but I believe they moved to Brixton. It was 1949 before I could find Quesick as Southern Area Welterweight Champ, the one that went to McManus later. Quesick seems to have held the British lightweight title in a lineage from Harold Angus, Jack Alker, Ginger Burke, all the way to Saint and Breaks.

One snip of interest is that Johanfesson was making about £20 from a show after costs until it all went sour and then he was losing money due to poorer fan numbers. Some elements of his creativity backfired on him.



Here is The Bearded Wrestler. I don't know if he stuck around long and as Bill Benny emerged, he was also billed as The bearded Wrestler.

Could O'Connor have had a career elsewhere, there are so few bills and yet could this be him nearly 20 years later.



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