

Ron's Wrestling Ramblings

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Fleetwood

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Ron

MARINE PAVILION

+++ FLEETWOOD +++

ALL-STAR WRESTLING

Friday Next, July 28, 1950

DOORS OPEN 6-45 p.m. COMMENCE 7-30 p.m.

SUPER PROGRAMME

SENSATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST. Six 10-minute Rounds.

The Ghoul	v.	The Black Mamba
Meeting Mystery Man of the Ring		

WEIGHT MATCH. Six 10-minute Rounds.

ED. CAPPELLI	v.	TOMMY MANN
Anglo-Italian		Manchester

MIDDLEWEIGHT THRILLER. Four 10-minute Rounds.

LEW ROSEBY	v.	CHRIS. LONDON
		Greece

THREEIC CRUISERWEIGHT CONTEST. Six 10-minute Rounds.

Reg Williams	v.	Freddy Rex
Stockport		Doncaster

BOOK YOUR SEAT EARLY at Boardman's, Tobacconists, 39 Lord St., Fleetwood. Whitesides Corner Church St. and Leopold Grove, Blackpool (Tel. 22773); Tickhurst, Imperial Cafe, 103 Bolton St., South Shore, Blackpool (Phone 23484).

Prices : 2/6, 4/6 and 6/-.

Just when I thought I had done the seaside towns of the North West and North Wales, one pops up called The Marine Pavilion. Fleetwood, yes I have been, in fact the end of

1954 **TO-NIGHT** 25th June

FLEETWOOD

MARINE PAVILION

Doors Open 6-45. Start 7-30 p.m.

Heavyweight Contest. 12—5.

DAVE ARMSTRONG v. GERRY HOGGARTH

Welterweight Contest. 8—5.

CHIC PURVEY v. DANNY FLYNN

Welterweight Contest. 8—5.

JACK DEMSEY v. TONY LAWRENCE

Light Heavyweight Contest. 12—5.

LES KELLETT v. ALF CADMAN

Prices of Admission : 6/-, 4/6, 3/-

Book at Boardman's, 39 Lord St., Fleetwood (Tel. 367), Whiteside's Coaches, corner Church St./Leopold Grove, Blackpool (22773). Special Coach from Whitesides to and from Hall 2/-.

the tram line from Blackpool, but never to the wrestling.
And I have a new problem, I don't think we have ever talked about The Black Mamba.

Intrigued !!!!!

He is masked, see other Bills.

Hack

Thanks Ron I'm really pleased to see these Fleetwood additions. In the 1960s Fleetwood was one of my favourite days out. Returning to Lancashire a couple of years ago I found it a sad, forlorn place.

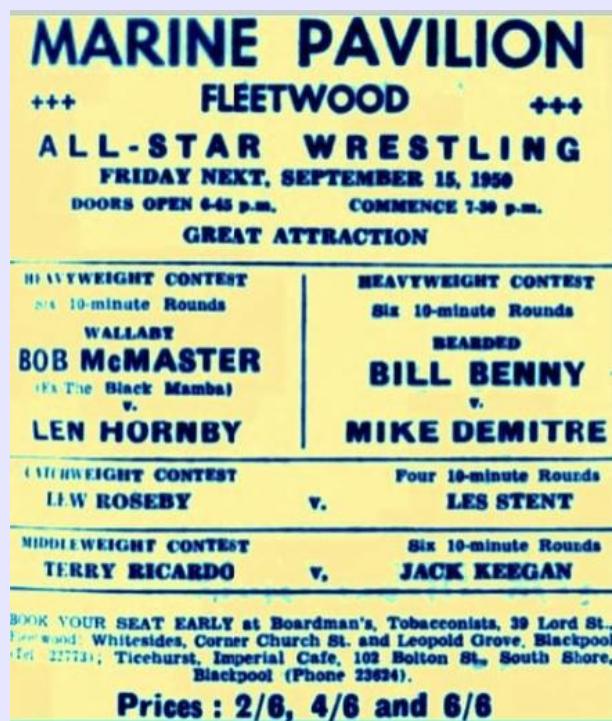
I remember around 1965/6/7 seeing a poster for wrestling at the Marine Hall. Top of the bill was Big John Brocklebank. Never heard of him before or since. Funny how these things stick more than half a century later. I've always wondered about Big John and who he was. Harry Strickland was from Fleetwood and became Jock Cameron. Could there be a connection between those two?

I hope William R (Beancounter) looks in. Always great to find his friend Gerry Hoggarth

Williamr

Great Bill Ron - very many thanks. By coincidence I had a friend round today who told me his Dad went for physiotherapy to Dave Armstrong, who had a surgery at Blackrod, near Bolton. There was a family of Brocklebanks who lived at Tewitfield, near Carnforth. They were formidable wrestlers in the Cumberland and Westmorland style. I wonder whether Big John was one of them.

Ron



The identity of the Black Mamba is solved as you can see from this poster.

I did spot him a couple of times working for Relwyskow in Aberdeen in the 1949/50 period. It was something like an 18 month unbeaten run.

He was beaten in the match with the Ghoul that opened the thread.

Interesting times, the Ghoul submitted and recovered and shook his opponents hand.

Black Mamba was then knocked out with the ghouls special punch. After recovering the Black Mamba went over to the Ghoul who removed his mask. Bob McMasters.

Hack

Black Mamba. Well who would have guessed it? Thanks Ron.

Ron

Yes, that is a new one, I checked the A-Z. The crowd were in raptures as Mamba looked old, but without the mask there was a curly/wavy haired young man of good looks. The papers say it was quite a sensation.

Reading some of the Ghouls exploits, in particular with Jack Pye it seems more comedy than menace. Various matches, ref gets knocked out, Ghoul gets knocked out by an accidental kick, but refuses to carry on when he comes round so no result. Another one Pye chases Ghoul to dressing room, then noise, crash, bang, wallop, then Ghoul briefly pops through the curtains followed by Pye and then they vanish. Not the same menace as the young Nagasaki from what I can see. The Ghoul also very vocal when taking punishment.

Yes for ten years after the war wrestling was a big part of a Fleetwood holiday before declining.

williamr

Around 1952 Gerry Hoggarth fought Shirley Crabtree at Fleetwood in what is thought was Crabtree's ring debut. Gerry told me that beforehand Relwyscow had advised him to "go easy on the lad".

Gerry remembered the occasion as the only time his wife Vera accompanied him to a bout and on seeing the billboard outside, made him go inside and check Shirley wasn't a woman wrestler!

Ron

Gerry Hogarth (Lancaster) knocked out his 19-year-old opponent. Shirley Crabtree (Halifax) in a supporting bout.
27th June 1952
Believed to be the debut of Big Daddy.

It looks like it was 27th June 1952 William. The report was the following Friday and I can tell you Gerry Knocked out Shirley, Bob McMasters beat Abdul the Turk by DQ and there was a tag match Tommy Pye and Danny Flynn V Chick Booth and Alan Colbeck.

Unfortunately The Marine Pavilion advertised it's whole week of events that year stating Wrestling on Fridays, but there was a write up for results collectors. Consequently I have no bill. Relwyscow was paying £7 per night to rent the Hall.

Great bits of info William.

williamr

Thank you so very much Ron. I'm going to send the details to Gerry's family. He used to tell them he once beat Big Daddy and now we'll be able to prove it to them.

williamr

Lee Scott was a popular heavyweight from Fleetwood. I remember watching him in a bout at Lancaster Kingsway Baths in 1963. His opponent was Chief Thunderbird. There was another heavyweight from Fleetwood, also with the Independents, but I can't for the life of me recall his name.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Augusta)

Lee Scott was a friend of Harry (Al, Hal) Strickland, who did some shows for Bob Bannister in Accrington and other places. He was an opponent of mine at the Drill Hall in Accrington. He was a tough character who when he had you in a Boston Crab, you really felt it.

As to Harry Strickland, I'm sure he had something to do with shows for "Triple Promotions" in particular in shows in Morecambe and surrounding districts.

Anglo Italian

Eddie Capelli sure got around.

Ron

It's no small feat that via Williams R's friendship with Gerry Hoggarth, that a well remembered anecdote has been tracked down and here on Heritage we now have the debut and result of Big Daddy. Shirley will have fans out there and some people would argue he could be the most famous of British Wrestlers. I actually talked with Shirley at the back of Belle Vue at least twice, it is ironic that we have made this discovery.

I shall search hard to check if there is a bill tucked away in the papers that week and if not I will show you how it was advertised.

Ron

FLEETWOOD SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS
(JUNE 22 to SEPTEMBER 21)

OPEN AIR ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS
IN THE MARINE GARDENS. Weekdays at 11-0 a.m. and 3-0 p.m. CARRISIMA PLAYERS. Sundays at 3-0 p.m.; COLONNADE ORCHESTRA. Relax in a Deck Chair, 6d. per Session.

VISITORS' WEEKLY BOWLS TOURNAMENT
IN THE MARINE GARDENS WEST END BOWLING GREEN. Heats Every Wednesday Morning, Semi-Final and Final every Friday Morning. Season's Grand Final Sept. 6 for Abbercrombie Trophy. Entry Form and all particulars from Bowls House, West End.

MARINE HALL
Every Thursday: IDEAL HOLIDAY GIRL COMPETITION. Every Sunday: CHARLEY'S PARTY and T.V. GIRL OF BRITAIN COMPETITION and £100 TALENT COMPETITION.

OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL
Commencing July 2: BATHING BEAUTY COMPETITION, £100 Cash Prizes £100. Heats every Wednesday at 3-0 p.m.

GRAND SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
Let your Camera pay for your holiday. Entry Form and full particulars from Marine Hall.

LADIES' ONE DAY BOWLS TOURNAMENT
Wednesday, June 25. Commences 10-0 a.m. Valuable Prizes. West End Bowling Green, Marine Gardens.

ALL STAR WRESTLING
Every Friday Evening at 7-30 p.m. in the Marine Pavilion.

NOW OPEN FOR SEASON: Marine Hall Cafe, Sun Lounge Cafe, Belle Cafe, Beach Cafe and Promenade Kiosks, East and West End Kidder/ Padding Pools, Model Swimming Lanes, Marine Swimming Lanes, Open Air Swimming Pool, Kidder/ Marinettes in Marine Gardens, East End, 9 and 15 Hole Pitch and Putt, Crazy Golf, Bowling Greens, Open Air Table Tennis, Open Air Squash, and the popular Archery Range in the Marine Gardens. For Hire: Beach Chairs and Deck Chairs on the Sea Esplanade and Promenade.

Fleetwood advertised Wrestling very basically in 1952. This was all there was.

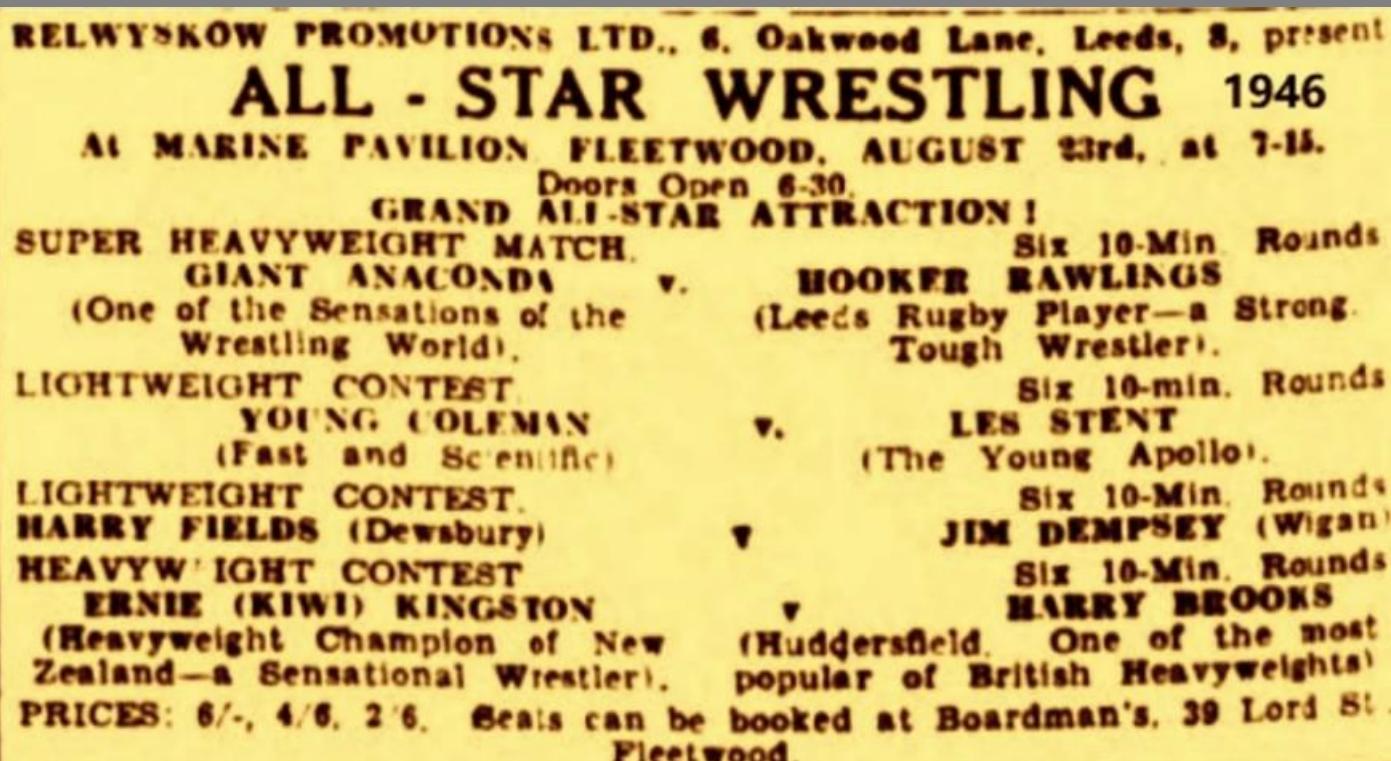
I know when Relwyskow got wrestling off the ground there some of the early attendances were just 400, but I think it must have improved to last 10 years.

williamr

Thanks for this post Ron. I played a number of times in the weekly bowls tournaments during the 1960's & 70's.

Ron

Tell you what has caught my eye, Les Stent, Young Apollo



Hack

I see Lee Scot's son in today's newsletter asking for information about Jock Cameron. I wonder if what he said of his dad promoting with Jock is a clue to Phil's question about Triple Promotions.

williamr

Great to hear Lee Scott is still with us. Wonder if it was Triple Promotions behind the Lancaster event.

Phil Kenyon - can you recall who promoted the Garstang Kirkland Memorial Hall bills in 1964? I know Gerry Hoggarth was MC and referee at these and the above Lancaster event.

Also Phil, were you involved with outdoor events at the Fylde villages of Out Rawcliffe and Cockerham which took place around the same time? Gerry was definitely involved at Out Rawcliffe, but despite talking to many locals, I cannot find out anything at all concerning the Cockerham event.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Augusta)

Hi williamr. I remember very well wrestling at the Kirkland Memorial Hall. I'm not sure who was behind the promotion, but I can tell you that my dealings were with Harry Strickland. I do have the suspicion that it was Triple Promotions, which after hearing the account from Lee Scott's Son would fit into the picture that I have. Maybe Hack can get in touch with Lee Scott's Son in order that he can ask his Father exactly who was behind Triple Promotions?

One thing stands out in my mind very vividly, which I've already posted somewhere on this platform:

I was billed to wrestle on one of the Kirkland shows in 63 – 64, but after arriving I suddenly found out that after Talking with Harry Strickland that I was supposed to be refereeing for the evening! I hadn't any idea of refereeing and didn't have any gear for it, only my boots. I did however get through the evening, but when it came to collecting my wage, Harry gave me (no longer sure) £4 and said that was the going rate for a referee! To say the least I wasn't impressed at all with this and told Harry in no uncertain terms, we finally agreed to (no longer sure) £6.

Knowing what I now know today I have the suspicion that Gerry Hogarth was either ill or on that evening wasn't available, so they had to do a quick change to the bill.

That was my last appearance at the Kirkland Hall!

Outdoor events: The only event that I can remember, but no longer sure where, was at a coal miner's fete somewhere in that area. I was billed against Don Plummer. The bout was filmed and shown at miner's clubs and convalescent homes in the North of England.

Cheers

williamr

Many thanks Phil.

Ron



Don Plummer, Phil, I had not come across that name even though he is in the

A-Z.

Managed to find him and with a Bizarre spelling my earliest yet St John versus Svajic match.

Got them now 44 times.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Agusta)

Sep 09, 2020

Nice bill Ron. A couple of other facts:

- Vince Lawson was also from Burnley same as Don Plummer. He was also attached to Bob Bannisters gym in Accrington. Big guy some 6ft 3in and about 18 stone. Was billed a lot as a Canadian Lumberjack.

- On the old site in the A - Z Don Plummer had a bill

from Kirkland Memorial Hall next to his write-up, but this of course disappeared when the layout changed.

- Androf Shychick this is a name that I've never seen for Andreas. Will put it alongside of all the other names he, or the promoters used!

Cheers

williamr

I'm really enjoying this thread. Can Hack somehow find out about Lee Scott's current state of health, as it would be great to have him along at next year's Blackpool Reunion.

Anglo Italian

Thanks for posting these, Ron.

A new name can be added to the list of Les Kellett's tag partners in Ted Beresford.

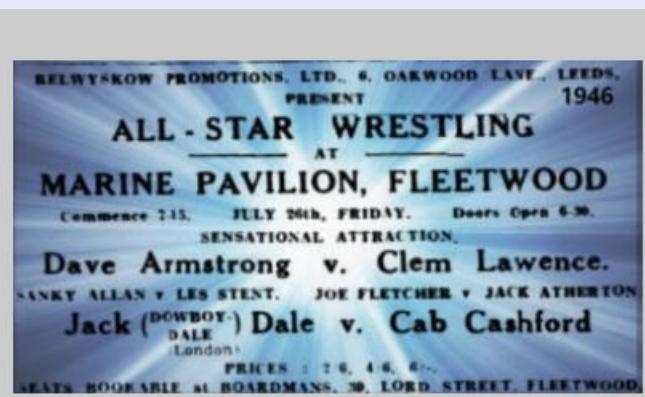
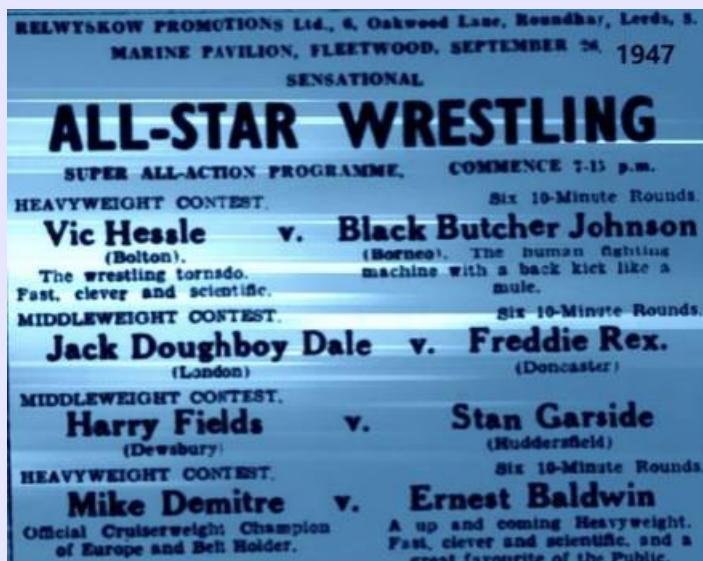
Do I correctly read Jack DOWBOY Dale in September 1946? Great to see the likes of Kidd, Dale, Relwyskow, Joe Hill all involved amicably so many years before Joint Promotions.

The Blue Masked Wrestler - the only wrestler with WRESTLER in his name? - certainly catches the eye and had a fair run in Fleetwood.

Just got to the end of it. Doughboy couldn't get enough of the Irish Sea. I wonder what Doughboy was all about? First I've read of it.

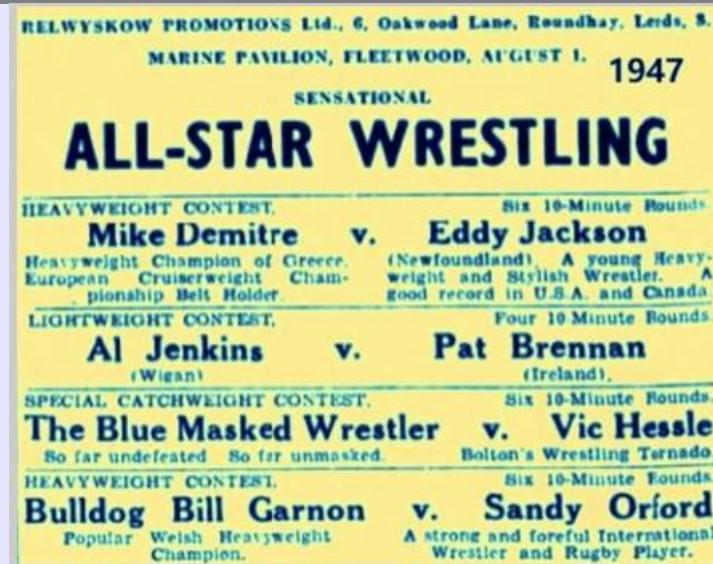
Ron

As always you make some great points Anglo, Dowboy/Doughboy, take your pick but what the hell does it mean.



Ron

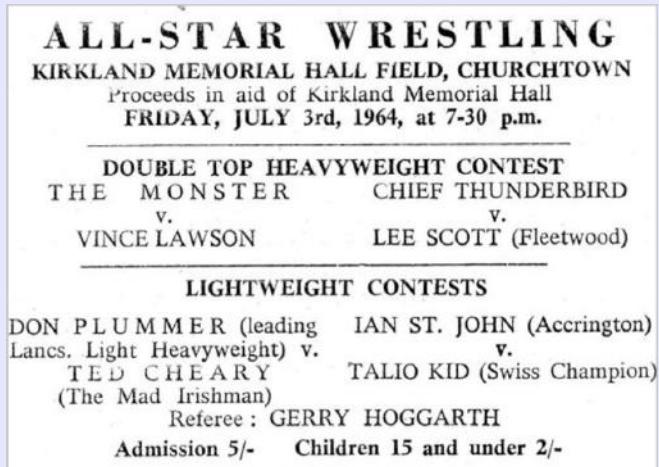
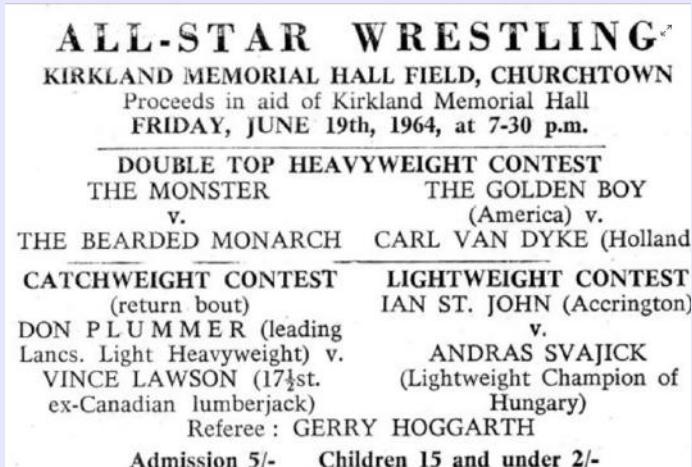
I bet the Blue Masked Wrestler might have been Silcock or Atherton



Hack

I've passed on your interest on Lee Scott to his son. Apparently Lee is fishing at the moment so presumably okay. Will try and find our more.

Two Don Plummer's for Phil, one with Lee Scott.



Phil Kenyon (Mike Agusta)

Thanks for the couple of bills Hack, great. Please also keep us informed on what Lee Scott's Son has for us information wise.

Well I never! In my previous comment I mentioned the fact that Vince Lawson was sometimes billed as the Canadian Lumberjack and your first bill confirms this. Another couple of interesting things:

- Rarely do we see that Ian St. John was billed from Accrington usually Scotland!
- The Bearded Monarch was Norman Kenworthy from Padiham near Burnley and was a good friend of Vince Lawson.
- Not sure on this, but I think Ted Cheary was indeed an Irishman, but lived in the Manchester area. He would visit our gym in Accrington on numerous occasions. My memory is not like it was years ago!

williamr

And of course the Talio Kid was Derek Standing from Halton near Lancaster, a great friend of Gerry Hoggarth's. Gerry told me Derek only learned to read and write when an adult. However, he was a brilliant painter and I've seen a number of his water colourings. A skilled craftsman, he constructed a portable wrestling ring for Gerry to use in his training of amateurs.

I once asked Gerry why The Talio Kid was sometimes billed as the "Swiss Champion". Apparently his wife was Swiss and once when on holiday over there, this man in a bar was boasting of his wrestling prowess. The furniture was cleared and Derek won the ensuing bout with ease, earning him the "title" You couldn't make it up!

I understand he succumbed to an industrial related illness in mid-life and was for a long time confined to a wheelchair.

Ron

Fleetwood was almost a world of its own. Such special anecdotes are being collected here.

bjh99

In the last bill, you've got a lightheavyweight in a bout headed lightweight contests. As William r said "you couldn't make it up".

Hack

Disappointing news. Lee Scott has not heard of Triple Promotions. The mystery continues.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Agusta)

Thanks for the info. Hack. As you say the mystery continues.

Anglo Italian

To be fair to the promoter, I think Ron shows us newspaper adverts, and the bills were clearly phoned through. We see lots of manglings, here from lightweight to light-heavyweight, but we should see the real poster before being over-critical.

williamr

Yes Anglo, the Kirkland bills were photocopied from the archives of The Garstang Courier, a local rag, which made the Guardian appear a paragon of literacy.

williamr

Hack, it would be nice if contact could somehow be kept with Lee Scott. I wonder whether, like Gerry Hoggarth, he thought nobody would be interested in his career after a gap of over 50 years. We on this site can assure him this is certainly not the case and are proud of the continuing connection with stars of the Golden Age, typified by the excellent and informative posts of our friend Phil Kenyon.

Here's a thought, I last watched Lee Scott wrestle when I was sixteen and am now seventy two - where has the time gone?

The Monster, who appeared on both the above bills, was Jim Green from Blackpool who, I understand, is still with us. There is mention elsewhere on this site concerning his appearances on Gordon Corbett's bills at Preston Public Hall.

williamr

The events at Kirkland Memorial Hall were part of a fund raising effort towards an extension of the facilities there. The couple who negotiated the event were Mr & Mrs James Parkinson who farmed locally and did a tremendous amount of work at the Hall.

The Rest Home in which Gerry Hoggarth finally resided over 50 years later was situated only half a mile from the present Hall and by amazing co-incidence the lady who came to cut his hair was Kay Clark, daughter of the said Mr & Mrs Parkinson, who reminded Gerry that following one of the Wrestling events a Social was held and he partook in a dance with her elder sister, Joan. A friend of mine Richard Greenwood, son of the Hall Chairman was recruited as a corner man, but he got too close to the action and received a back elbow to the face for his sins.

(Sorry to ramble on somewhat, but I think it lovely that memories still come to light concerning these locally unique occasions)

Ron

This thread illustrates the POWER of the sum of the parts. Many thanks all contributors.

Hack

Lee Scott tells us that Ted Cheary was Ted O'Leary. I'm not sure that tells us much (other than Cheary being O'Leary) but thanks Lee. Ted O'Leary anyone?

Phil Kenyon (Mike Agusta)

Hi Hack, As I said in a previous mailing, I wasn't sure about Ted Cheary, but the info. from Lee Scott jogged my memory a bit. The name Ted O'Leary rings a bell with me and I'm pretty sure it was the guy from the Manchester area that visited and trained with us on some occasions in Accrington.

Ron

Noticed a carnival at Chester Rugby Club in 1971 had wrestling with Pete Lindburg and Ted O'Leary forming a tag tam called the Slayers, they were in a bout with Ian Wilson and Johnny Ryan.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Agusta)

Both Pete Lindburg and Ian Wilson were both from the Manchester area, so this would up to a point verify what I said about Ted O'Leary.

Anglo Italian

Bill Tunney wrestled Dominic Pye in The Cuckoo Patrol.

Hack

Lee Scott's son said dad wasn't that interested in the old days but as you've shown an interest he would talk. So I've just finished a very enjoyable 45 minute phone call with Lee Scott. I think we've rekindled his interest as he had got out some old photos and his scrapbook. for now I'll just tell you that he and Harry Strickland (Jock Cameron) promoted at the Marine Hall for about three years from 1964ish until 1967ish. He remembered Gerry Hoggarth and said that he knew the Accrington lads - mentioned Ian St John, Andreas Svajic, Don Plummer and Mike Agusta!

There was one sad bit to the phone call. Following his query to Heritage we had found an address for Harry. Lee went round to the house. There were new occupants who said they believed Harry had died. So, not enough for us to confirm, but it does look as though Jock Cameron may no longer be with us.

williamr

Well Done Hack. It was a lovely idea to hold a phone conversation with Lee. I do hope your making contact rekindles his interest in his past career, as we out here are eager to hear his recollections of those great days of the sport.

Ron

Do we have Harry Strickland's full name, year of birth, and in particular where in the country are we talking about for his last address.

Hack

Harry Strickland, born November 1934 in Fleetwood. Deceased wife Audrey. Last known address was in Thornton Cleveleys. I'll email you precise address.

Ron

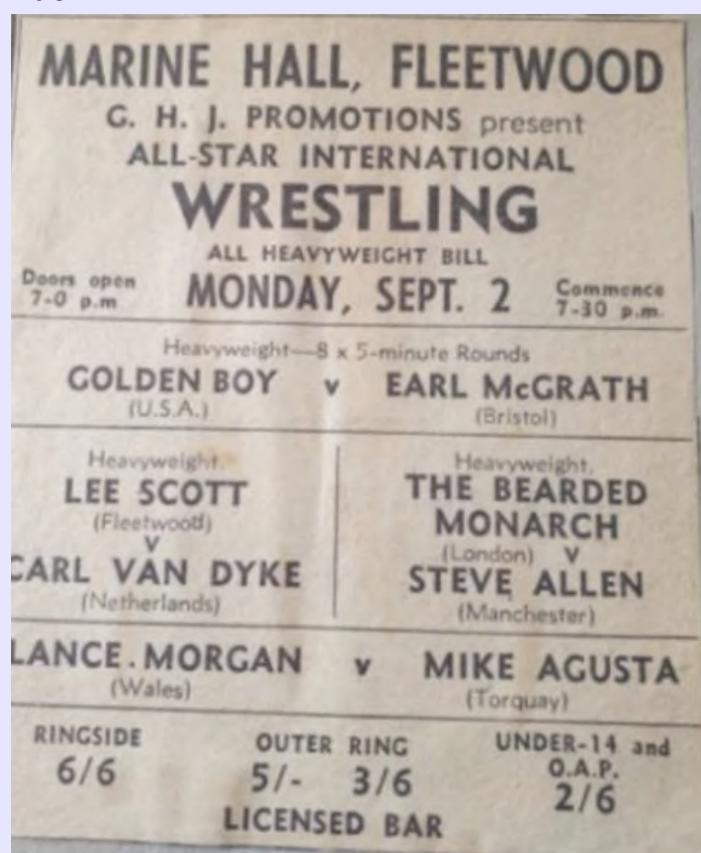
Worth a shot , but a death of his name in this area does not seem to forthcoming. Could be something different like the district of death or unexpected name variation.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Agusta)

Great job Hack. Sorry to hear about Harry.

I do hope that Lee takes an interest in the "old days of wrestling" and who knows perhaps we can persuade him to come along to Blackpool next year, that would be great, to be able to talk about old times.

Cheers

Hack

When I was talking to him he mentioned lots of names from the Fylde. I felt pleased with myself at times for knowing so many of them, but blimey even at 2,000 plus names I then began to realise Heritage has only scratched the surface.

1963 and the independents have moved in to Fleetwood.

Look who's on the bill.

From Torquay! Have you ever been Phil?

Phil's already told us about the Bearded Monarch, Norman Kenworthy of Padiham. Any knowledge of the others on the bill?

williamr

You sure get around Phil!

Phil Kenyon (Mike Augusta)

Hi Hack,

All a bit foggy, sorry can't help you on the other names on the bill. "Golden Boy" rings a bell, but for the life in me I can't remember who he was.

I did get around a bit, from London, and other places, even from Accrington, but I must admit this is the first time that I wrestled as coming from Torquay!

Cheers

Phil Kenyon (Mike Augusta)

One thing that I've just noticed! G. H. J. Promotions. Could this be the start, or even another name for "Triple Promotions", could the "H" be for Harry Strickland?

Maybe Lee Scott can enlighten on G. H. J. Promotions?

Cheers

Phil Kenyon (Mike Augusta)

I knew the name Golden Boy rang a bell, well after looking through some wrestling bills I think I've found him: Tony Walsh.

Be carefull though as sometimes names were "stolen"

Hack

You will be enlightened soon Phil.

Phil Kenyon (Mike Augusta)

Hack, now you have my full Attention!

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