

Ron's Wrestling Ramblings

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Reading

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD

WRESTLING

TOWN HALL, READING 1977
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 Start: 7.45

Doors: 7.00

THE ALL ACTION MAIN EVENT

BOBBY BARNES	V	JOHNNY KWANGO
MAL SANDERS	v	STEVE KELLY
SANDY SCOTT		CATWEAZLE
PHIL ROWE		R. KANE

BOOKINGS: Pickfords Ltd, 21 St Mary's Butts, Reading
Tel. (0734) 54251 (for advance bookings or at Town Hall night of show). Prices: 90p, 75p, 60p 50p 45p

In December 1977 Reading Town Hall said goodbye to wrestling and a new building the Hexagon was to become it's next home.

1978


WRESTLING

HEXAGON READING

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Commence 7.30pm

Live TV Spectacular ★
Favourite commentator Kent Walton at ringside ★
Sensational Tag Match! Fabulous Royal Brothers versus Rollerball Rocco ★
Ray Thumper ★ Superstar Dynamite Kid ★
Champion Johnny Saint ★ Kwango ★ Iron Man Steve Logan ★ Butcher Bond ★ — 6 terrific contests — 75p, £1, £1.25, £1.50 Ringside — Advance 10am to 8pm Tel. 56215 or at door on night of promotion. Everybody welcome.



World's Most Thrilling Sport

Wrestling!

TOWN HALL, READING

Tuesday, 2nd November 1948
at 8 p.m. 1948

HEAVYWEIGHT EMPIRE ELIMINATOR
6-10s, 2 Falls, Sub or E.O.

Major CLEM LAWRENCE
(Chelmsford) Leading Contender

v.

ERNIE "KIWI" KINGSTON
Champion of New Zealand

All Star Supporting Programme

ADM. PRICES 2/6 to 10/6
DON'T MISS THIS SHOW

BOOK NOW—From Barnes & Avis
14d, Peter Street, Reading

What was the history of Wrestling in Reading and how long had the Town Hall been used?

Thus far I have not found any wartime or 1930's wrestling in the town , but I did find in 1948 that Wrestling was frowned upon and there had been a ban on it at the Town Hall.

I don't know if it had been tried or if it had been kept out of the town , but Dale Martins were entrusted to a trial with some nice clean wrestling to attempt to win a lease for regular shows at the Town Hall.

Odd other venues were used sometimes but the Town Hall tenure lasted nearly 30 years. This was the trial show and the earliest wrestling I have found in Reading. Support was Ron Harrison v Babe Quesick, Vic Coleman v Al Jackson, McManus v Capelli, and Alan Garfield gave a weight lifting exhibition.

The Ost

The 1948 one therefore is a new find. Nice one Ron.

Hack

There was definitely a reluctance to stage wrestling in Reading. But there are suggestions wrestling took place before then. Ray Plunkett has his first bill on 6th March, 1935. Where he got that from I've no idea and can find no evidence. The Reading Standard of 2nd October 1936) does say that Bert Howarth is going to stage all-in wrestling at Palm Lodge on 6th October, 1936. Main event Van Dutz v Ray St Bernard, with Fred Unwin v Stan Stone in support. The Reading Standard of 6th November, 1936 said it was unlikely there would be more wrestling at the Palm Lodge, but the Corn Exchange was a possible venue. On 1st January the newspaper reported: "And a bit 'fishy' was the attempt to popularise all-in wrestling. At least we had one sample of it, and that was that. You are left to decide whether Reading disliked wrestling or wrestling disliked Reading."

Ron

A year or more ago we debated the 1950's matches between McManus and Pallo and we even had a list.

I contributed their earliest ever meeting (known) as a December 1952 bout at Bedford. However despite having this bill Jackie Pallo was a substitute. I have found a bill at Reading that I think is the earliest where they are "billed" together. I think so far the only 1953 example.

Examples of their meetings are becoming more and more and I found another two at reading in the 1950's Note they are always undercard.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD.
(of London) present 1953

WRESTLING

TOWN HALL - READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT DEC. 22	Commence 8.0 p.m.
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Sensational Angle - Turkish Heavy Contest

ABDUL THE TURK
TURKEY.-v.
CHARLES GREEN
LIVERPOOL.

LUCIEN GUILLOU
JACK QUESICK

Stefan MILLA v. Arthur FISHER
JACKIE PALLO v. MICK McMANUS

Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from:- Barnes & Avis, Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading and at the Town Hall on the night. Prices: 11/-, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 3/- including tax. Book Now !!

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD
(of London) present 1956

WRESTLING

Town Hall
READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT MAY 8	Commence 8.0 p.m.
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International Heavyweight Contest

ALAN GARFIELD v. MIKE MARINO
(Sydney, Australia) (Milan, Italy)

Ultra Special Welterweight Contest

GEORGE KIDD v. BOB ARCHER
(Dundee) (Chelmsford)

JACKIE PALLO v. MICK McMANUS
Jean MORANDI v. "Judo" Al HAYES

Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from:- Barnes & Avis, Ltd., 144, Friar Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night. Prices: 11/-, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 3/- incl. tax. Book now! Tel.: Reading 3488-9.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD
(of London) present 1957

WRESTLING

Town Hall
READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT JAN. 29	Commence 8.0 p.m.
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Wales v. Argentine H'weight Contest

ABEL Cestac v. SANDY Orford
(Buenos Ayres) (Crumlin, Wales)

MICK McMANUS v. JACKIE PALLO
TOMMY MANN v. ALAN COLBECK

CHARLIE Fisher v. GENE Murphy
(Eltham) (Sydney)

Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from:- Barnes & Avis, Ltd., 144, Friar Street, Reading and at the Town Hall on the night. Prices: 11/-, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 3/- incl. tax. Book now! Tel. Reading 353/31.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS, LTD.
proudly present 1961

WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 pm	TUESDAY JUNE 13	Comm. 8 pm
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International Heavyweight Contest
ERICH KOLTSCHAK versus **TIBOR SZAKACS**
(Berlin) (Budapest, Hungary)

Buddy Cody v
The Winner of the Steve Logan v
Spencer Churchill Contest on May 30

Harry Kendall v **Dennis Dean**
(Brixton) (Sydney, Australia)

'Mr. TV' Fallo v **Mick McManus**
(Highbury) (New Cross)

Plan of hall, advance bookings and
tickets obtainable from: Barnes &
Avis, Ltd., 144 Friar Street, Reading,
and at the Town Hall on the night.
Prices: 11/-, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/- (inc.
tax). Book now! Tel. Reading 55361

It's the 1960's now and a fourth tear up but still before their cup final day explosion.

Jackie is now "Mr TV" but still they are propping the card up.

DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present

WRESTLING TOWN HALL, READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUESDAY NEXT	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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Super International Heavyweight
Contest

PAT O'REILLY
IRELAND

RAY HUNTER
TASMANIA

Mick McMANUS v. **Steve LOGAN**
P. O'DONNELL v. **J. WILLIAMS**
An Anglo-Canadian Heavyweight
Match

JACQUES LA ROUCHE
v. **DON STEDMANN**

PRICES 10/6, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/6
including tax. Plan of hall,
advance bookings and tickets
obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd.,
141, Friar Street Reading, and at
the Town Hall on the night of the
Show. 5th FEB 1952 **BOOK NOW!**

Just for good measure I also throw in a McManus v Logan match , very early in 1952.

These meetings were not so frequent.

It seems that for the first four years the Town Hall was not always available. I know that crowds were about 1000 and I don't think the Olympia Dance Hall was any bigger so I am struggling to see any other reason that some shows were done here. These sit side by side with Town Hall bills.

<p>WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM, LONDON STREET, READING Tuesday, December 13th Doors Open 7.15 Commence 8.0</p> <p>Public Demand Heavyweight Contest</p> <p>PAT O'REILLY (Ireland). The toughest man in the ring.</p> <p>ERNEST "KIWI" KINGSTON Heavyweight champion of New Zealand.</p> <p>'College Boy' v. Kid Pittman Jack Dempsey v. Steve Logan Stan Stone v. Len Britton</p> <p>Book now at Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading. Prices of Admission: 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, and 2/6 (including tax). 1949 It's a Dale Martin Promotion</p>	<p>WRESTLING! Olympia Ballroom London Street - Reading TUESDAY, MARCH 22nd Doors open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.0. DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD. proudly present!</p> <p>Southern Area Light Heavyweight Championship and Silver Cup Sanctioned by Southern Wrestling Board of Control.</p> <p>SONNY WALLIS HAMMERSMITH - R Area Champion v. CHAS. FISHER POPLAR - Pride of London's East End. ARCHER O'BRIEN v. KID PITMAN Ireland London</p> <p>Midweight Challenge Match 10 minute Rounds. JACK DALE British Middleweight Champion, v. HARRY FIELDS Bradford.</p> <p>Special Heavyweight Contest MIKE MARINO v. DANNY DAVE Italy Wales</p> <p>Tickets 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6, from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier St., Reading, or from Olympia on night of performance. 1949</p>	<p>WRESTLING Olympia Ballroom LONDON STREET, READING — 1949 — TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>Tremendous Heavyweight International BERT ASSIRATI British Empire Heavyweight Champion.</p> <p>BLACK BUTCH JOHNSON World famed exponent of "La Scola".</p> <p>TOMMY MANN v. SLIPP BEAUMONT KID PITTMAN v. STAN STONE</p> <p>DAI SULLIVAN v. MIKE MARINO</p> <p>ADMISSION (including tax): 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6. Book now at Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading. Telephone 3488.</p>	<p>WRESTLING Olympia Ballroom, Reading TUES. SEPTEMBER 20 Doors open 7.15 Comm. 8.0.</p> <p>In aid of the Royal Air Force Association (Reading Branch). Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940.</p> <p>Great Heavyweight Attraction! Tony MANOELLI Ex King's Sergeant, R.A.F. - "The Blackfriars Thunderbolt."</p> <p>Ken DAVIES (Wales). One of the Strongest Wrestlers in the Ring.</p> <p>KID PITTMAN v. ARTHUR FISHER Ex R.A.F. Soldier. Popular One of the Bravest.</p> <p>RAY GAGHAN v. BOB HARRISON Barnes, Fox and Furlong.</p> <p>Sonny WALLIS v. EWANGO Barnes, Fox and Furlong.</p> <p>No increase in price, but Best New Admission 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6. Bookings and tickets from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 140-141, Frier St., Reading (Telephone 3488). HELP THE BOYS WHO SAVED THE WORLD. 1949</p>	<p>WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM, READING TUESDAY, APRIL 18 DOORS OPEN 7.15 p.m. COMMENCE 8.0 p.m.</p> <p>AT LAST BY PUBLIC DEMAND! Sensational Heavyweight Challenge Match, presenting</p> <p>PATRICK O'REILLY (Ireland). 17st. Irish Strong Boy and Challenger for the British Heavyweight Title. Has met and defeated some of the world's greatest wrestling talent. Specially wants to meet Asirati.</p> <p>BEARDED KEN DAVIES Wales. 17st. of dynamic power and crushing strength. A wrestler with an international reputation and a great record.</p> <p>Don't Miss This Great Contest! USUAL ALL-STAR SUPPORTING PROGRAMME 1950</p> <p>Prices of Admission: 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 (including tax). Book now at Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier St., Reading. Phone 2488.</p>
<p>WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM LONDON STREET, READING TUESDAY, JAN. 24 DOORS OPEN 7.15 p.m. COMMENCE 8.0 p.m.</p> <p>Tremendous Heavyweight Attraction Introducing the World-famous BRADDOCK KID</p> <p>CHAS. GREENE v. PAT O'REILLY (Ireland, the well-known strong boy)</p> <p>BEN CHEMOUL French Barnes, v. JOHNNY PETERS Wrestler</p> <p>FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME</p> <p>Prices of Admission: 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6, including tax. Book now at Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading. 1950</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM LONDON STREET, READING TUESDAY NOV 14 Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>A Sensational Heavyweight Contest</p> <p>CHIEF THUNDERBIRD The Mighty Redskin, the most Indian Chief</p> <p>FRANCIS ST. CLAIR GREGORY Bedworth, Coventry, Oxford Western Area Champion.</p> <p>WICK McMANUS v. JOHNNY PETERS G. LAWRENCE v. GEORGE KIDD SONNY WALLIS v. BOB ROBINSON</p> <p>Prices of Admission (including tax): 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, and 2/6. Plan of hall and advance bookings obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at Olympia on the night of the show. Book now!</p>	<p>IT'S A DALE-MARTIN PROMOTION WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM LONDON STREET, READING 1950 TUESDAY OCT. 17 Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.</p> <p>Super 4 Star Heavyweight Contest</p> <p>GEORGE Pencheff First appearance of Australian Adonis</p> <p>DAVID Armstrong Barnes, a supreme scientific Heavyweight</p> <p>Ken JOYCE v. GIFT BEAUMONT MIKE MARINO v. JIM ANDERSON Len BRITTON v. Red RADIN</p> <p>Prices of Admission (including tax): 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, and 2/6. Plan of hall and advance bookings obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at Olympia on the night of the show. Book now!</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. 1951 TUESDAY NEXT Dec 11</p> <p>A Super Heavyweight Contest</p> <p>RAY HUNTER TARNANTIA-GIL. DR. JULES KIKI</p> <p>MIKE MARINO MILAN, ITALY. JACQUES LA ROUCHE QUEREC, CANADA.</p> <p>Len STENT v. Vic COLEMAN Arthur FISHER v. Steve LOGAN</p> <p>PRICES 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at the Ballroom on the night.</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM London Street, Reading Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT</p> <p>An International Heavyweight Contest Presenting the former American World Champion</p> <p>JOHNNY SWENSKI (Fairfield, Maine, U.S.A.) challenged to Europe v.</p> <p>GIANT ANACONDA The English Carver (197 lbs. 15 years)</p> <p>Bob Archer O'BRIEN v. Pat STONE BOB HARRISON v. Stan STONE</p> <p>A European Lightweight Contest "GIPSY" GUY LAROCHE Former World Champion</p> <p>GEORGE KIDD World's Lightweight Champion</p> <p>PRICES: 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 (including tax). All seats booked. Advance bookings from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at Olympia on night of performance. Book early 4th Dec 50!</p>
<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT</p> <p>A Super Programme of International Stars</p> <p>FRANCE v. ENGLAND CLAUDE MONTROY v. ARTHUR BEAUMONT</p> <p>ANDRE GARNIER v. KID PITTMAN</p> <p>Jack QUESICK v. Carlton SMITH George KIDD v. Bena CHEMOUL</p> <p>PRICES 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading. 10/10/50 10/10/50</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM, READING Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT</p> <p>A SENSATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST</p> <p>TONY MANOELLI BLACKFRIARS REX GABLE AUSTRALIA</p> <p>IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL WELTERWEIGHT CONTEST JUAN CALVO MADRID CARLTON SMITH BARNESLEY</p> <p>EDDIE CAPPELLI v. KEN WILSON V. COLEMAN v. J. WILLIAMS BE SURE NOT TO MISS THIS GREAT NIGHT OF WRESTLING</p> <p>PRICES 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night of the show. 20th APRIL 1952 BOOK NOW!</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT</p> <p>Super Anglo-French Heavyweight Contest</p> <p>Edmond Liehn BECANON, FRANCE v. Glen Lawrence CHILNESFORD.</p> <p>JOHN QUESICK v. EDDIE CAPPELLI JOHNNY WOODS v. LEN BRITTON</p> <p>The COLLEGE BOY v. STAN STONE</p> <p>PRICES 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at the Ballroom on the night. Book Now! Rights of admission strictly reserved. 10th MAR 1952</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM, READING Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. TUESDAY MAY 15</p> <p>For the Official Mifflin's Championship of E. Britain and "Arena" Gold Belt</p> <p>HARRY FIELDS DEWIFURY, v. KID PITTMAN LONDON</p> <p>A Special Welterweight Contest FRANK HUGHES v. PAT STONE Garry de Jager v. Arthur Beaumont IRON-MIKE BARRETT BROKEN HILL AUSTRALIA, v. BON STEWART LONDON.</p> <p>PRICES 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night of the show. 1952 BOOK NOW!</p>	<p>DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present WRESTLING OLYMPIA BALLROOM, READING Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m. TUESDAY OCT. 14 1952</p> <p>Colourful International Heavyweight Contest</p> <p>EL SAID ARABET MOROCCO, v. MILO POPOCOPOLIS ATHENS.</p> <p>KEN JOYCE v. STEVE LOGAN KID PITTMAN v. TOMMY MANN Wick McManus v. Johnny Williams</p> <p>PRICES: 10/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 2/6 (including tax) all seats booked. Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from Barnes & Ayle Ltd., 141, Frier Street, Reading, and at the Ballroom on the night. BOOK NOW!</p>

THE HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP
of 1950
St. Britains & British Empire

READING GREYHOUND STADIUM
OXFORD RD., READING

Friday, August 18
8 o'clock

ASSIRATI
British Heavyweight Champion.

O'REILLY
No. 1 Contender.

SMITH v. CAPPELLI	SADLER v. STONE
Tony Mancelli	Butch Johnson
Mike Marino	Pat Barry

Tickets: Barnes & Avis, Prior St., Reading, 15/6, 10/6, 5/6, 3/6, 4/6, 2/6

Wrestling!
READING STADIUM
Monday, June 4
Doors Open 7 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

1951
International Heavyweight Contest

Bert Assirati
London, 17½ stone, British and Empire Heavyweight Champion, Modern Marquis.

Mick Casey
Dublin, Heavyweight Champion of Ireland, tremendously strong, youngest of the famous Casey Bros.

Special Heavyweight Contest

MILO
Greene, Light-Heavyweight Champion of Europe

"RED" MCKENZIE
Scotland, one of the toughest and gamiest Malmes.

And Full Supporting Programme.

Prices (including tax) 10/- (Ringside res.), 7/6 (res.), 5/- (res.), 3/6 (grandstand unres.), 2/6 (standing). Advance bookings by plan, Barnes & Avis Ltd., 140, Prior Street, Reading. Phone 3489, 3488/9.

Wrestling! 1951
READING STADIUM
Doors Open 7 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

THE GREATEST CONTEST EVER SEEN IN READING

ALI MUSTAPHA
THE TURK

"GORGEOUS" BILL VERNA
15-stone Australian Vender Bug

TONY MANCELLI
versus
JEAN PICOOT
Full Supporting Programme

2,000 SEATS ON SALE AT DOOR
Prices of Admission: 10/6, 7/6 & 5/- reserved; Grand Stand 3/6, unreserved. Book now at Barnes & Avis, 140, Prior Street, Reading. Phone 3489, 3488/9

Wrestling!
READING STADIUM
Monday, May 21 1951
Doors open 7 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
SOUTHERN AREA 6 10-min. rounds

Tony Mancelli
LONDON, Blackfriars' Thunderbolt, Southern Area Heavyweight Champion.

Clem Lawrence
CHELSEA, Challenger at Major one of Britain's Greatest Wrestlers.

TONNY WALLIS v NORMAN THOMAS
VIC COLEMAN v COLLEGE BOY

Special Heavyweight Contest
6 10-min. rounds

THE SHADOW
Masked Mystery Man. Undefeated in over 150 bouts.

JACK BERRY
Chicago, U.S.A. First appearance in England.

Prices (inc. tax): 10/- Ringside res., 7/6 res., 5/- res., 3/6 grandstand unres., 2/6 standing. Advance bookings by plan Barnes & Avis Ltd., 140, Prior Street, Reading. Phone 3489-3488/9.

In 50 and 51 it looks like an attempt was made to accommodate a bigger crowd. Twice Assirati was used as a crowd puller. Did it work? Who knows but the tradition seemed to go missing.

WRESTLING
TOWN HALL, READING
Tuesday, July 12
Doors Open 7.30 Commence 8.0

Tremendous Black versus White Heavyweight International

BERT ASSIRATI
British Heavyweight Champion and Empire Champion. Known all over Europe and America, versus

BLACK BUTCH JOHNSON
The Joe Louis of The Mat. A wily wrestler of international repute who will make Bert fight hard. 1949

Stan STONE v. Vic COLEMAN
Archer O'BRIEN v. Mick McMANUS
Chas. FISHER v. Mike MARINO
A Dale Martin Promotion

Prices of admission: 10/6, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/6 (inc. tax). Bookings: Messrs. Barnes & Avis, 140/141, Prior Street, Reading. Tel. 3488.

WRESTLING!
TOWN HALL, READING
Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.0

— on —
Tuesday, March 8th
1949

Definite Appearance of the
BRITISH HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMPION

BERT ASSIRATI
ISLINGTON, LONDON—British Heavyweight Wrestling Champion

VERSUS

REX GABLE
FORMER AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION

Prices of Admission: 10/6, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/6 (including tax). Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 144, Prior Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night. Book now!

WRESTLING
TOWN HALL, READING
Tuesday, October 4th
Doors Open 7.30 Commence 8.0

Special Heavyweight Attraction!

BERT ASSIRATI
British and Empire Heavyweight Champion versus

BEARDED KEN DAVIES
Heavyweight Champion of Wales, A Great Wrestler

Mick McMANUS v. Al LIPMAN
Babe QUESICK v. Jack DEMPSEY
Giffy BEAUMONT v. Vic COLEMAN

Prices of Admission: 10/6, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/6; incl. tax. Book now from Barnes & Avis, 141, Prior Street. 10.00

IT'S A DALE-MARTIN PROMOTION. 1950
WRESTLING
TOWN HALL, READING
Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUESDAY OCT. 3rd** Commence 8 p.m.

Extra Special Heavyweight Contest

BERT ASSIRATI
Islington, British and Empire Heavyweight Champion versus

VIC HESSELLE
Bullion, Sensational Northern Ace.

Ron HARRISON v. Danny FLYNN
Chas. FISHER v. Len HORNBY
Sonny WALLIS v. Al CADMAN

Prices of Admission (including tax): 10/6, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/6. Plan of hall and advance bookings. Tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Prior Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night of the show. Book Now!

And talking of the champ (Assirati), yes he did Open Air. The Ballroom and was used quite a lot at the Town Hall. His opponents look to be not too difficult to me.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD (of London) present 1955
WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **SAT. NEXT OCT. 22** Commence 8.0 p.m.

Anglo-Spanish Heavyweight Contest

BERT ASSIRATI v. JOSE OLIVERA
LONDON MAJORCA, SPAIN

Steve LOGAN v. Jimmy MULLACH
Jack QUESICK v. Pat KLOKE

Special Heavyweight Contest

JOHNNY ARTHUR PETERS v. BEAUMONT
Ruslip, Middx. Wigan

Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from: Barnes & Avis Ltd., 144, Prior Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night. Prices: 11/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 3/- incl. tax. Book now! Tel.: Reading 3488/9.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD (of London) present
WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT JAN. 17** 1956 Commence 8.0 p.m.

EMPIRE HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST

BERT ASSIRATI v. RAY HUNTER
(London) (Robert, Tasmania)

LEE EDWARDS v. JOHNNY PETERS
Jack CUNNINGHAM v. Peter BARR

George KIDD v. Eric SANDS

Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from: Barnes & Avis Ltd., 144, Prior Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night. Prices: 11/6, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 3/- incl. tax. Book now! Tel.: Reading 3488/9.

Have a look at Garfield in Reading.

WRESTLING Town Hall, READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT FEB. 3** 1953 Commence 8.00 p.m.

Sensational All-Action Heavy Contest

ALAN GARFIELD AUSTRALIA v. **PATRICK O'REILLY** IRELAND.

Geoff. PORTZ v. Bob ROBINSON
Tony Quarry v. Bob A. O'Brien
Jack DEMPSEY v. Gordon SMITH

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WRESTLING Town Hall - READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT JUNE 21** Commence 8.0 p.m.

Anglo-Australian Heavy Contest

ALAN GARFIELD (Sydney, Australia) v. **JUDO AL HAYES** (Westminster)

Vic COLEMAN v. Gert Ed MANGOTICH
Mick McMANUS v. CUNNINGHAM

Black v. White Heavyweight Contest
Black Dutch Charles JOHNSON v. FISHER

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(of London) present 1955

WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT NOV. 8** Commence 8.0 p.m.

Black v. White Heavyweight Contest

ALAN GARFIELD v. **BLAKE DUTCH JOHNSON** AUSTRALIA WEST INDIES

ERIC TAYLOR v. HARRY FIELDS
Peter RANN v. Bob Arthur O'BRIEN

International Light-Heavyweight Contest
CHASCO BLAKE MONTES v. KWANGO

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT JAN. 3** Commence 8.0 p.m.

PAUL BERGER v. **ALAN GARFIELD**

ZURICH STONEY

PAT ELOKE v. KEN SHAW

ICHA JUDAH ISRAEL
MARTHEUS JACOBS

MICK McMANUS
BILLY BOWES

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT JAN. 14** Commence 8 p.m.

Commonwealth Heavyweight Contest

SIR H. v. GARFIELD (Amstcr) (Sydney, Australia)

Dennis WARREN v. Steve LOGAN
Frankie HUGHES v. Pat ELOKE

ARJIT SINGH v. ERIC TAYLOR (India) (Bradford)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT APRIL 21** Commence 8 (R) p.m.

A Sensational "Clash of Giants" NEWS

KINGSTON v. GARFIELD (Christchurch, N.Z.) (Sydney, Aus.)

LEN KELLETT v. TONY VALLON
MICK McMANUS v. TED HANNON

PETER TIGOR DEAKIN v. SZAKACS (Leicester) (Budapest)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT FEB 10** Commence 8 (R) p.m.

Black v. White Heavyweight Contest

RAY APOLLON v. ALAN GARFIELD (Trinidad) (Sydney, Australia)

Tony CHARLES v. Johnny FOLEY
Malwyn RISS v. Peter SZAKACS

YON BILLY DILLENGER v. ROBINSON

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES. NEXT SEPT. 8** Commence 8.00 p.m.

MARTIN ALAN

Donoof v. Garfield (Brussels) (Sydney, Australia)

PETER TONY DEAKIN v. MANCELLI (Leicester) (London)

Jack CUNNINGHAM v. Jackie FALLO
Tony VALLON v. Johnny CRESLAW

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES NEXT JAN. 26** Commence 8 (R) p.m.

An Ultra Special Heavyweight Contest

BILLY TWO RIVERS v. ALAN GARFIELD (Quebec, Canada) (Sydney, Australia)

Archer O'Brien v. Al Nicol (Chelmsford) (Nottingham)

Achim Chell v. Gordon Nelson (Berlin) (Mannheim)

Guy Lombardo v. Jn. Morandi (Singapore) (Florence)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUES NEXT JUNE 28** Commence 8 p.m.

A Sensational Heavyweight Contest

JOHN DA SILVA v. ALAN GARFIELD Auckland, New Zealand London

Nick Williams v. Alan Colbeck
Gayle Thomson v. Doug Joyce

Gwyn Davies v. Big Bill Verna Maitag Perth, Australia

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUESDAY NOV. 29** Comm. 8 pm

All-Action Heavyweight Contest

EMIL POILVE v. ALAN GARFIELD (Manchester) (London)

Mindy SWANN v. Bob Archer O'BRIEN
Black KWANGO v. Gertt HOGAN

Tiber Szakacs v. Dave Armstrong (Budapest) (Choppington)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m. **TUESDAY AUGUST 8** Comm. 8 pm

International Wrestling at its best
Commonwealth Heavyweight Contest

GEORGES GORDEN v. ALAN GARFIELD (Winnipeg, Canada) (London)

Outstanding light-heavyweight contest
Steve Logan v. Dennis Deas (Brixton) (Sydney, Australia)

Brian Burke v. Jean Morandi
Buddy Cody v. Majid Ackra

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j_shelvey

Great research Ron. I think I could revert to being a kid again, if I woke up on Christmas morning and there was a Christmas stocking with a half a dozen (of those old bills stuffed in it!

Anglo Italian

Talking of Garfield, let's remember our much loved and departed forum maestro Old David who once recalled seeing Garfield v Marino in Kent on a Tuesday. The next day he found himself in Reading and went blind to the wrestling, not knowing who was on. Wasn't it only Garfield v Marino again! Skeptical, Old David expected to see the same bout rehashed, but saw a completely different contest. He was very impressed. I see Marino and Gafield at it in Reading even 15 years before Old David saw them. Otherwise, someone was watching Garfield's Reading opponents with great care as there are no repeats and big names like Dara Singh and Georges Gordienko. Between January and June 1960 we can see Garfield's billing switch from Sydney to London. Must have been when he started his backchat with his London accent. Always scope to ponder a new name, though: Jimmy Munlack opposing Steve Logan? Odd name. Must have been real!

SaxonWolf

For me, at least, this only goes to deepen the Garfield mystery. A main eventer for many years who just never made it into the TV era properly. Do we really believe it was because he somehow upset Kent Walton?

Anglo Italian

We don't really know, Saxonwolf, but it's the only story we have and has to be the history at this point. It's rather fun, so no harm going with it in my opinion. Joined at the hip to Geo Kidd at that time. Kidd was a monkey, seemed to run with the fox and hunt with the hounds. Was never blackballed and commanded all the work (and Scottish venues) he wanted.

SaxonWolf

Actually Anglo, just a thought, but when Wrestling first appeared on TV, it was (of course) presented as a real sporting contest, were there any "villains" on TV in the late 50's and early 60's?, would Alan Garfield have come across as "too pantomime" at that point? I am clutching at straws I guess, because I just don't see why the promoters wouldn't have pushed him heavily on TV in the early days, with him being a prominent name, usually at the top of bill, who should have been well known to anyone who went to watch a live show.

Anglo Italian

Mmmm. True, he was clearly very well known. Should really have had more tv exposure than McManus and Pallo combined. Given that it was ALLLLLLLLL a work in spite of what we like to (pretend to) believe, the most rational and boring theory is that Garfield wanted it like this. They were all up to all sorts of shenanigans, Garfiled perhaps selling motors illegally? Some didn't want to be seen.

SaxonWolf

Not sure why Alan Garfield wouldn't want to be seen on TV? If you look at how many shows he headlined over the years, there must have been hundreds (thousands?) of people who saw his face on a weekly basis?

Ron

Maybe Garfield was never forgiven for working for Lincoln before his second tour. Not so with Capelli, but Garfield probably did what suited him and at that time Dale Martins were last.....Payback

Fast forward to 1960 , through the 50's Dale Martins had no opposition in Reading , but the Olympia Ballroom was snatched for a few shows.

Now we have talked about a relationship with Dales and Devereux before. But had not some of these guys left Joint by 1960.

And even more controversial I am claiming a "find". Has anyone ever seen Paul Lincoln billed under his own name in 1960 or beyond/

I did a thread on his debut and anytime in the late 1950's we thought there was an odd sighting , but we did not know if it was Lincoln. Ost , I think managed a few shows in January 1960 for Doctor Death and if you look here in January 18th I am showing you a bill that I believe could be the only physical bill where we see Paul Lincoln as himself.

So comments welcome on what Deveraux were doing and Paul Lincoln as himself this late. Is this history.

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WRESTLING

DOORS OPEN 7 P.M. **MONDAY, FEB. 1** COMMENCE 7.45 P.M.

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BUTCHER JOHNSON v. **JOHNNY PETERS**

Grand Heavyweight Contest: **RON HARRISON** v. **ROBERT TAYLOR**

All action Catchweight Contest: **KEN SHAW** v. **RON KNIGHT**

AMERICAN STYLE TAG TEAM MATCH

KEN JOYCE v. **EDDIE CAPELLI**

NORMAN THOMAS v. **LINDY CAULDERS**

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DOORS OPEN 7 P.M. **MONDAY, JAN. 18** COMMENCE 7.45 P.M.

THE GREAT KUMALI v. **CHARLIE SCOTT**

(West Africa) (Ireland)
 The Famous Heavyweight from East Africa A Rough and Tough Wrestler

KEN JOYCE v. **ROY LA RUE**

(London) (South Africa)
 The European Heavyweight Champion A Fast and Clever Wrestler

LESLO BAIKO v. **TERRY GIBBS**

(London) (London)
 Heavyweight Champion of Hungary

GEORGE KIDD v. **PAUL LINCOLN**

(London) (London)
 The World's Lightweight Champion Champions Speed with 14"

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WRESTLING

DOORS OPEN 7 P.M. **MONDAY, FEB. 15** COMMENCE 7.45 P.M.

7 GREAT BOUTS | SENSATIONAL K.O. TOURNAMENT | 7 GREAT BOUTS

KEN SHAW (Bermondsey)	FAT KLOKE (Dublin)	SENMY VANDEN BURG (South Africa)
REG. TROOD (Kensington)	SILVER CUP to be presented to the winner	JACKIE MARTIN (Canada)
FRANKIE HUGHES (Sydenham)	MIKE SHANAHAN (Ireland)	TONY LORD (Lancashire)

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OLYMPIA BALLROOM, READING
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WRESTLING

DOORS OPEN 7.15 P.M. **MONDAY, MARCH 14** COMMENCE 7.45 P.M.

Butcher JOHNSON v. **The Great BULA**

(West India) The Renowned Coloured Ace of the Ring The Mystery Man of the Ring

TONY LORD v. **VAN DEN BURG**

(Lancashire) (South Africa)

FRANKIE HUGHES v. **LINDY CAULDERS**

(Sydenham) (West India)

THE COLLEGE BOY v. **RON HARRISON**

(Cambridge) (Queen's Park)

PRICES: 10/6 5/6 2/6 1/6 2/-
 Advance bookings at Olympia Ballroom, 75 London St., Reading. Tel. 30067. **1960**

Ron

Finally a variety from the Town Hall

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Anglo Italian

Garfield. The Caswell Martin syndrome before his time?

SaxonWolf

Not sure what the Caswell Martin syndrome is, and not sure why Alan Garfield wouldn't want to be seen on TV?

Anglo Italian

Caswell Martin was brilliant. Could have had it all. Heaven knows what his real name was. But he worked the German tourneys and elsewhere and had several lives, not always wanting to be identified. All sorts of reasons. Hence my Garfield idea about the cars, but only an idea. Let's face it, if you're the taxman, in 1960 or 1970 how could you keep up with these guys?

Thing is, Garfield was so big, he replaced Assirati. Headlined all over the country. But unknown. He was unknown to most on here when I said he was my fave wrestler in 2004. And I only saw him in his twilight years ... but he was still mesmerising.

And yes Ron, the history of what was going on 60 years ago in the dressing rooms is slipping away from us. The Lincoln rise, trade unions, strikes, threats --- all within a relatively small pool of wrestlers. Most seemed to be forgiven instantly. But there must have been bad blood at the time.

I have Garfield, the employee, firmly in mind as someone who didn't care. He had his Bentleys.

But who knows?

SaxonWolf

Was he related to George Burgess? Brothers? Facially, both very similar looking.

I know we joked about wrestlers having a "wrestling name" to fool the tax man, in the past, but this could have been the real reason of course.

Were Wrestlers ever paid in anything other than cash?

Join Ron Historyo and add your comments in the forum

<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/reading-wrestling>