

Ron's Wrestling Ramblings

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Tamworth



I have found yet another nugget of a venue.

Victorian Building built in 1887 and capacity I would have though in terms of quite a few hundred but not 1000.

Some of the strangest bills out there at times bordering on Holiday Camp type Standards.

Bartelli sneaks in , if it is him. Barnu cropped up not long back and also Mawamba.

Who the hell is Ukluk/

See 1974 our Jackie having given up on Joint in with a Dr Death copy.

1966
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, TAMWORTH - NEXT THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 66
All-Star International WRESTLING
★ GRAND FINALE—Probably the last Tournament of the Season ★
Sensational "Mixed" Tag-Team Clash! UNMASKING! One must come off.
Brett Martin & Jackie Loren (Nottingham) v. (Anglo-Italian)
DOCTOR DEATH (Hollywood, U.S.A.) v.
Lady Caroline & Taffy Jenkins (Oxford) v. (Wales)
THE CAEMAN (S. American Star)
Rog. Ladaire v. Pat Ryan (Italy) v. (Ireland)
Pete SMITH v. Mick SAGE (Newark) v. (Wigton)
Don't Delay—BOOK EARLY at Whitehead and White, Sports Outfitters, 19, George Street, Tamworth. A GOOD SHOW THIS! (1)

1966
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, TAMWORTH - MONDAY, SEPT. 26th, 8 p.m.
All-Star International WRESTLING
★ NOTE CHANGE OF DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL BILLS ★
A Truly Great International Opening Reservation. Thrills.
Celebrated Icelandic Matman
UKLUK
First time here) v.
Harry BENNETT
(Sheffield). The Iron Man.
Star Event—All-Stars' Tag-Team
NAUGHTY NOLA JACKIE GOLDSMITH & LOREN (London) v. (Anglo-Italian)
SUELLA LADY GORDON & CAROLINE (Leicester) v. (Oxford)
Jack TAYLOR v. Jim McLAUREN (Accrington) v. (Scotland)
Johnny ANGEL v. Paul RICARDO (Sheffield) v. (America)
Advance Bookings at Whitehead and White, Sports Outfitters, George

1966
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, TAMWORTH - NEXT THURSDAY, NOV. 24, 66
All-Star International WRESTLING
★ DON'T MISS THIS TOP-NOTCH EXTRAVAGANZA ★
Tremendous America v. Canada Clash LA/Weller Challenge
DOCTOR DEATH (Hollywood, U.S.A.) v. **BORRIS BIERNE** (Co. Roscommon) v.
COWBOY CASSIDY (Calgary Plains, Canada) **JACK TAYLOR** (Accrington)
Black v. White
LENNAR SINGH (India) v.
Whipper SMITH v. Pete COLEMAN (Newark) v. (Luton) **MICHAEL LA-ROACH**
Booking now at Whitehead and White, 19, George Street, Tamworth
BOOK EARLY FOR THIS GREAT BILL! 1966 (1)

1966
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, TAMWORTH - NEXT THURSDAY, 23rd, 8 p.m.
All-Star International WRESTLING
★ GIANTIC GRAND RE-OPENING PRESENTATION ★
Sensational Return—**Cowboy CASSIDY** (Calgary Plains) v. **DOCTOR DEATH** (Hollywood, U.S.A.)
The French European Champions—**THE WHITE ANGELS** (Celebrated Continentals) versus **Jack TAYLOR & Farmer RAYMOND** (Accrington) v. (Clayton)
Boxer v. Wrestler—**Mick DALBY** (Loughboro) v. **Gernhart BOND** (S. Africa)
Black **HAWAMBA** v. **Mel KEMP** (W. Africa) v. (Langley)
Booking NOW at Whitehead and White, Sports Outfitters, 19, George Street, Tamworth. BOOK EARLY (1)

Assembly Rooms, Tamworth
International All-Star WRESTLING
1968
Saturday, June 1st
Doors open 6-30 p.m. Commence 7-30.
Promoter and Matchmaker: **LEW PHILLIPS**
10 rounds Heavyweight Contest
THE ZULU KID (African Medicine Man and Witch Doctor) v.
Adolph DABROWSKI (The Polish Strong Man)
8 rounds Heavyweight Contest
The Apache (Colorado Springs) v.
Big Butcher Watson (Tamworth)
Judo v. Wrestler, 8 rounds
Alf Margate (Leeds) v.
Roy La Rue (South Africa)
Pre-matching before Title, 10 rds.
Jack Dempsey
(The British Welterweight Champion who has agreed to defend his title with a side stake of £100 against this same man; this could take place here at Tamworth) v.
Bob Sherry (Bolton. The Challenger for the above Title)
PRICES: 5/-, 7/6, 10/-
Tickets in advance from: Whitehead and White, Tamworth; Harry Yardley, 25, Sharpe St., Amington; or pay at the door. (1)

Assembly Rooms, Tamworth
International All-Star WRESTLING
1968
Saturday, May 18th
Doors open 6-30 p.m. Commence 7-30.
Promoter and Matchmaker: **LEW PHILLIPS**
GRAND CUP FINAL RE-OPENING
American Tag Match, 10 minutes time limit. The Diabolical
THE UNDERTAKERS (Nathaniel and Jonathan) v.
THE O'REILLYS (Spike and Seamus)
Eight Rounds Contest—
Pat Ryan (Belfast) v.
Pete Evans (Wales)
Eight Rounds Contest—
Roy Roy (London) v.
Andy Davine (Blackpool)
Eight Rounds Contest—
PRINCE BARNU (Brazil) v.
BILLY JORDON (The Irish Irishman)
Prices 5/-, 7/6, 10/-
Tickets in advance from: Whitehead and White, Tamworth; Harry Yardley, 25, Sharpe Street, Amington; or pay at the door. (1)

Assembly Rooms, Tamworth
International All-Star WRESTLING
Saturday, Nov. 9th
Doors open 6-30 p.m. Commence 7-30.
Promoter and Matchmaker: **LEW PHILLIPS**
The World's Greatest Wrestler
Ten Rounds Heavyweight Contest
COUNT BARTELLI (Commonwealth H/weight Champ) v.
THE APACHE (Colorado Springs)
Six Rounds Welter Contest
Billy Ryan (Amington) v.
Roy Roy (London)
Eight Rounds Heavyweight
Vic (Cocky) Wall (Stourbridge) v.
Big Butcher Watson (Tamworth)
The World's Heaviest Wrestler, weighing 28 Stone, 10 Rounds
Klondike Bill (Alaska) v.
Gordon Corbett (Warley)
PRICES: 5/-, 7/6, 10/-
Tickets in advance from: Whitehead and White, Tamworth; Harry Yardley, 25, Sharpe St., Amington; or pay at the door. (1)

Assembly Rooms, Tamworth 1969
International All-Star WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 4th
Doors open 6-30 p.m. Commence 7-30.
Matchmakers: **LEW PHILLIPS PROMOTIONS**
French Heavyweight Championship, 15 rounds. The European and French Champion
HENRI PIERLOT (putting up his French Title) v.
JACQUES HERCULE (Brittany)
North v. South. Eight rounds
Billy Jordon (Belfast) v.
Seamus O'Reilly (Cork)
Six rounds Classic
Gian Chend (Penzance) v.
Alan Atkins (Warley)
Ten rounds Heavyweight Contest.
THE OUTLAW (N. America) v.
ANGUS CAMPBELL (Scotland)
Prices: 5/-, 7/6, 10/-
Tickets in advance from: Whitehead and White, Tamworth; Harry Yardley, 25, Sharpe St., Amington; or pay at the door. (1)

ALL-STAR INTERNATIONAL 1974 HOLIDAY ATTRACTION!
WRESTLING ASSEMBLY ROOMS, TAMWORTH
SATURDAY, 25th MAY, at 8 p.m.
★ Superb four-bout tournament including tag-team thriller ★
Star Heavyweight Sizzler 8 x 5
The Ian Falcon v. McLoud 1st. Goliath 15th stone
Jun. Cassidy v. Mike Eagers
Stefan Miller v. Roy de Maine
Sweet Bobby Baron & Steve Rowe
HELLS ANGELS
VERSUS
Diabolical UNDERTAKERS
Nathaniel & Horatious
Excitement, thrills & Spills
Tickets available at Sports Co., 4, Victoria Rd., Tamworth. Tel. 2065
Bus Station Cafe, Corporation St. Tel. 6623. Refreshment Buffet.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY ROOMS
WRESTLING TAMWORTH
NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th, at 8 p.m.
GUARANTEED APPEARANCE OF THE T.V. STAR 1974
JACKIE "Mr. T.V." PALLO (Highbury, London). First appearance here.
DOCTOR DEATH (Hollywood, U.S.A.). Fantastic Masked Matman.
Spider Hardy v Ed Bowing (Birmingham) v. (Strood)
Tony Rivers v Jack Taylor (Canada) v. (Lancashire)
Tag-Team Thriller
Duran & DeMaine v. **Elliot & Jelley**
Tickets available now 5/-, 7/6, 9/6, 10/- at Sports Co., 4 Victoria Road, Tamworth. Tel. 2065, and Bus Station Cafe, Tel. 6623.

Peter

Used for Pro Wrestling as recently as 2015 and packed to the doors

Hack

Congratulations Ron. First time I've seen a good reason for visiting Tamworth.

These look like Jack Taylor shows, with all his regulars. Then when we get to 1968 it says Lew Phillips presents. There is a connection. Phillips was a boxing promoter. He turned to wrestling, remembered mostly for his shows at Digbeth in Birmingham. He called in Jack Taylor as his matchmaker and helper in the beginning but I don't know if that lasted for long or not.

From 1968 on Taylor, Raymond, Caroline, Ladaire, Jenkins, Dalby, Ricardo have gone, so maybe Phillips had taken over where Taylor had left off. Junior Cassidy in 1974. Jack's son?

j_shelvey

Great find Ron! I see Dempsey v Sherry so far down the bill, they're almost off it?

Powerlock

Interesting to note that Mike Eagers is on a bill a few years after he walked away from Wrestling for Joint.

Hack

Well spotted Mike Eagers Powerlock, I'd missed that one. Was this really him? By then he was supposed to have religion. Another wrestling mystery.

Powerlock

I wonder if it was a one off, definitely worth looking for more. I would think they would be local and fairly low key.

Hack

I did wonder if this really was him, but one of the three matches I've found was a tag match with his old partner Danny Heagan. I found:

24th September, 1973 NORWICH with Regan v Karl Kramer/Hans Himler

12th October, 1973. WHITWICK v Cassidy Junior

24th January, 1974. ILKESTON v Tony Cortez

Powerlock

I wonder if he travelled on his religious works and occasionally did a bit of moonlighting.

Anglo Italian

We have all gone along with the Mike Eagers story that he retired to become a Jehovah's Witness. But we were fed this story by promoters he was no longer working for, we know not why.

Wrestlers on these independent bills had no mouthpiece to contradict whatever Joint Promotions wrote about them.

Looks a great venue.

So many subtle details conceived to mislead subconsciously: Vic (Cocky) Wall; Hells Angels.

Powerlock

Anglo, You're right that whatever came out of Kent's mouth we took as gospel (no pun intended). He might have decided that financially and personally it wasn't trailing around the country night after night. It's good to see that he did return to the ring albeit sporadically by the looks of it, but let's be honest how many of us looked for him on bill's after we were told he found religion .

Ron

Mike Eagers was in the People in August 1969 announcing his retirement. As a Jehovah's Witness he had found God and was going to teach the deaf and dumb. His intention was to scrape a living as a Joiner to help fund the teaching. Looks like a case of Never say Never.

Anglo Italian

The People! Ok, might be true. But might equally be a way of selling a good yarn for a few hundred quid.

Is this the sort of thing people do when they genuinely find religion: run to exploit the fact financially and shout about their benevolence to the nation....?

Hack

Of course we don't know if it's the same person (or whether Mike Eagers was his actual name but a Michael Eagers is listed currently as a trustee of the LONDON SIGN LANGUAGE WEST CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.

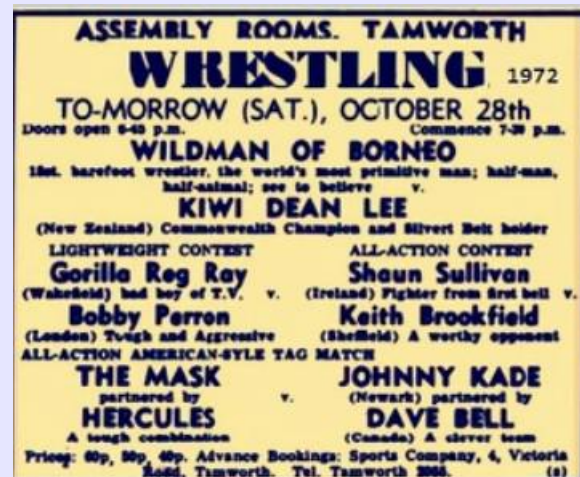
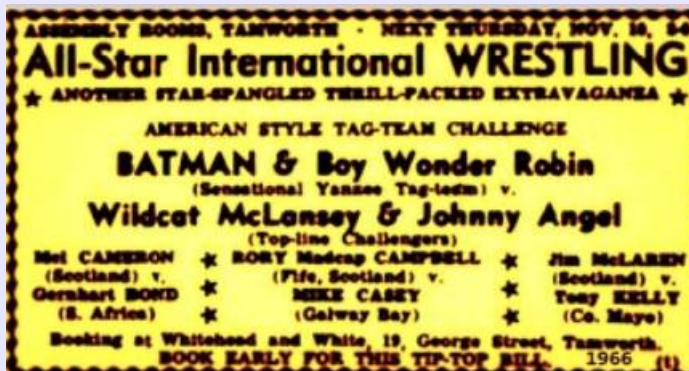
Anglo Italian

Tremendous knowledge, Hack. Gets the thumbs up from me 👍

Powerlock

Excellent detective work Hack!

Ron



Does this do anything for wrestling? Maybe it was to pull the kids in, Batman and Robin. Were the names Kade and Bell meant to lure people into expecting someone else? A colourful time, lots of wrestling in a relative backwater without competition from Joint. To go on so long it must have made money.

grahambrookjazz

Part of the reason that they could well have made money or at least covered costs is that Jack Taylor paid out so little money. He was reluctant to send a couple of girls over to me for a show I was doing in Nantwich in the mid 70s because he was nervous they would talk to the other wrestlers on the bill, find out how much they were getting paid, and then pester him for more. He ended up doing the worst of all worlds by accepting the booking then not sending the wrestlers and not informing me, leaving me with a good house awaiting the top of the bill attraction of lady wrestlers and not knowing Taylor had not informed them of the booking. By the interval I realised they were not going to appear and it was Lee Sharron who saved the day by suggesting that when I broke the news of the girls not showing that I announced that I was putting their wages up for grabs and inviting back into the ring all the wrestlers on the bill that night to fight it out for said wages in an over the top rope battle royal. This was several years before Crabtree introduced such spectacles to the British public. It saved the day as far as the audience were concerned but lost me the hall as the lady in charge of the bookings regarded me as a dubious character trying to pull a fast one and cancelled my provisional future bookings.

I sealed the deal with Taylor for these girls over a pot of tea at his house. We had not had the 50 pence piece long (people originally referred to them as dustbin lids) and I remember Taylor proudly holding one up. He had a show a few nights hence and he had billed an "added attraction" of a schoolboy exhibition bout. 50p was the amount he was paying each lad.

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