

In Memory of Mick McManus



Born: 11/01/1921
Died: 22/05/2013

ken sowden

A very sad day for all wrestling fans, the death of Mick McManus aged 93. The last of the great legends, Mick will never be forgotten. Our thoughts are with his family. RIP great man.

Wrestling Heritage

William George McManus died in the early hours of Wednesday 22nd May, 2013.

Forty plus years ago he was Mick McManus, the man we loved to hate, but the passage of time has long ago transformed him into the man wrestling fans simply loved and respected.

In his wrestling days his compact stature disguised not just his physical force in the ring, but his managerial force as matchmaker and Director of both Dale Martin Promotions and Joint Promotions. Born in Camberwell, Mick was the son of a London docker. Leaving Walworth Central School he worked for eighteen months in a drawing office before joining Diprose Bateman Ltd, commercial printers of Holborn.

In the evening Mick trained at the John Ruskin Wrestling Club where he became a close friend of wrestlers Percy Pitman and Ken Wilson. His interest in sport extended beyond wrestling to other sports, running for the South London Harriers, rowing for the Globe Rowing Club of Greenwich and weight lifting at Fred Unwin's club in Peckham.

With the outbreak of war Mick joined the Royal Air Force as Physical Training Instructor. He met the experienced Wigan wrestler Jimmy Rudd and the pair of them put on

numerous wrestling exhibitions around the country. Posted to Australia in 1945 Mick asked the promoter at the Leichart Stadium in Sydney for a trial, resulting in his professional debut against a wrestler called Tommy Steele

On his return to Britain Mick and Percy Pitman opened a transport business, transporting goods from the docks. Percy encouraged Mick to take up wrestling professionally, and arranged a meeting with Les Martin of Dale Martin Promotions. The British professional debut that followed was the start of a professional partnership between Mick and Dale Martin Promotions that was to span four decades. With wrestling commitments and lorry driving proving incompatible Mick and Percy Pitman sold their haulage business and opened a printing firm in Peckham. Their printing company specialised in printing wrestling programmes, posters and tickets for various wrestling promoters. Such was the success of the company they eventually found a successful buyer in Norman Morrell, the Bradford promoter.

Mick's wrestling career is well documented throughout the Wrestling Heritage site. Here was a man totally dedicated to the wrestling business, illustrated on 20th December 1965 when he changed his birth name by deed poll to McManus.

Mick was undoubtedly the biggest name in professional wrestling for more than twenty years. He appeared on television more than any other wrestler, associated with royalty and stars of the entertainment world, supported numerous charitable causes, but first and foremost possessed a psychological capacity to control the emotions of hundreds of screaming wrestling fans. The famous scowl as Mick held the top rope and sneered at the jeering fans. The hands clutching the side of his head, protesting: "Not the ears, not the ears." The alluring possibility that McManus might just be on the verge of defeat, but then a few underhand moves infuriatingly bringing yet another inevitable win. Or sometimes another victory because the man just seemed downright lucky. Every win was met with boos and derision of the fans, and a pledge to return next time when Mick might just lose.

Less known to fans at the time was his growing influence on the managerial side of Dale Martin Promotions. Here was a man the promoters could depend upon, and Mick's loyalty was rewarded by his appointment as matchmaker, putting together the bills and wielding the pen which could make or break careers. Mick was appointed a Director of Dale Martin Promotions, and in March 1971 a Director of Joint Promotions, a position he was to hold until 30th January, 1987.

All those who remember Mick McManus understand that his death really is the end of an era.

mikey370

Just seen the news about the death of Mick McManus on the forum. What a sad day. The man was a great grappler and ring legend. Condolences to his family.

SaxonWolf

Member

Very sad news indeed, he never got his OBE in the end. In his hey day he was as famous as The Beatles and just as much a part of the swinging 60's as the mini skirt and the mini car. Arguably the most famous British wrestler of all time. He stayed true to the sport he loved and never betrayed it. This really is the end of an era

Dave Sutherland

Sad news but a great life; a household name who played a great part in the wrestling game. RIP Mick.

Bernard Hughes

RIP Mick, one of the all time greats in our sport. Condolences to the family.

Andy

RIP Mick. You gave us such great entertainment for so long.

AlanG

Sad news indeed, one of the all time greats. I'm also sad that he never received the honour that he richly deserved before he passed away.

Bob Hayward

R.I.P. Mick you have left us with great memories when I was a kid Saturday afternoon was sacrosanct time for that magic hour especially when you were on. To see you live at the RAH aginsy MR TV was dream, there will never be anyone to replace you

johnmac2007UK

I was at a meeting at work today, when one of my young colleges, "Dan," said to me Mick McManus The Wrestler has passed away. So sad and Yes one of our greatest wrestlers/wrestling villains, the one that the armchair grannies from the 50's/60's/70's loved to hate, that shows how he was a master of his craft of pro wrestling. And Yes he was up there with the best of them as one of the most recognised names of his era in the UK. Thanks for the great memories Mick. God bless you and your family. RIP - Mick McManus.013 at 9:03 PM Edit Delete Flag Quote & Reply

BillQ

RIP Mick. I'll never forget my Grandma screaming at the telly on a Saturday afternoon when you were on World Of Sport. Condolences to family members. A true great of the sport.

Duncan

RIP Mick. A true great indeed. If you talk to anyone and ask "Did you used to watch the wrestling years ago"? almost certainly Mick's name would be mentioned. That is a mark of the esteem he was held in. How sad there are no Mick's around today.

Jon Waters

R I P Mick. Condolences to all your family and friends.

Wrestlefan

As Wordsworth put: men must weep when even the shadow of that which once was great has passed away.

Ray Plunkett

Rest In Peace Mick, A pleasure to know you and a real gentleman.

Malcolm Edward Flanagan

A sad day & the passing of an era. Mick was a gentle man in real life who always made an already good bill even better My sympathy to his son [Tony] & all the family

John Edwards 1

Can't believe Mick is gone - I was just watching him on Sky Sports. Deepest sympathy to his loved ones.

chris stathers

Strange that I should think of Mick driving home before hearing the news. Recall seeing him around Brixton and also at the Fairfield Halls. The end of an era.

Bill Smith

RIP Mick.

Bomber25

This is shocking news. I glanced at his name in the early hours of today as I visited the Wrestling Heritage site. Very strange as I thought to myself at the time that Mick McManus is still with us. Little did I know that he was either passing away, or had just passed away. I can still recall his visit to Nigeria - when I lived there - where he refereed a bout between Johnny Kwango and John Elijah which John Elijah won by two falls to one. Mick went on to referee a world title fight between Power Mike (Nigerian wrestling world champion) and a heavyweight wrestler from Lebanon; which ended in a draw.

The Lebanese wrestler tried to take liberties with Mick and was immediately warned that Mick McManus was no pushover. His bouts on television were always exciting. I am glad to say I knew the man through watching him exhibit his talents on television.

My sincere condolences to his family. Thanks for all the entertainment. May his soul rest in peace. A great legend and a world star of professional wrestling.

fairfax

Very sorry indeed to hear about Mick M. An unforgettable character and outstanding wrestler. RIP

Paul Ockenden

Found a couple of old pics today of Mick and my missus' dad (Julien Morice) in the ring. Strangely, in both pics, Julien had hold of Mick by the nose. Well, at least it wasn't the ears...

matey dave

Mick McManus remained true to wrestling all his work life. On the times he wrestled there was employment for 7 other wrestlers, referee and m.c. plus 2 seconds, those who put up the ring and broke it down after the show, the staff at the hall. He was always the one. There was only one Mick McManus, feel sad but at least he is now with his wife Barbara. Bless him for what he gave us.

hannan

RIP Mick McManus. My thoughts to Mick McManus's family, I remember him very well. My dad Ted Hannon and Mr McManus fought regularly under Dale Martin Productions based in Oakwood.

Cal

He was a legend in the wrestling world. I grew up watching him and others on a Saturday afternoon. My thoughts are with his family at this heart breaking time xxx

Mad Mac

As many others have said, the end of an era indeed. RIP.

Meru Ullah

I owe Mick a lot. He gave me my first chance when I joined Dale Martins in 1967 in Brixton. RIP with the greats in the ring above.

george

RIP. Respect to a great legend.

Royboy

A great loss a wonderful man who brought joy to many wrestling fans, gone but certainly not forgotten.

Dave W

He was as much a part of my teens as the Beatles or Stones. My best mate at school was a McManus fan, I always wanted the other guy to win - but wow his bouts were fun to watch! That world of wrestling really is fading fast, and that great atmosphere can't be regained. RIP Mick

tommy stevenson

I would like to say Mick love him, hate him, he gave the public value for money now sadly he has gone to the big ring in the sky. I am sure Wrestlers from North and South of the Border will remember Mick in their own special way R.I.P. Mick

Len Ironside

McManus was a real trailblazer. He made it possible for smaller wrestlers to top the bills around the halls in the UK. Formerly only heavyweights had that honour. He made grappling exciting and was part of the lighter guys who made grappling in the UK the most popular sport during the 1960s and 1970s. Its also seldom mentioned but McManus raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charities. Out of the ring he was a pleasant and intelligent guy. Its been a pleasure to know him, have worked with him and been able to recognise his contribution to British classic wrestling. Thanks for the blast Mick. May you rest in peace, united with Barbara.

Islington Hercules:

A consummate entertainer and assayer of audience levels of provocation. A real character in a characterless world.

Staal du Plessis

Sorry to hear about the passing on of MM. Although he never visited South Africa I followed and applied his style of wrestling for 25 plus years and it worked well for me. May God bless his soul. RIP

Hack

He may have been only around 5' 6" tall but Mick McManus stood head and shoulders above any other British wrestler.

No one matched Mick's contribution to the business at so many levels - as a wrestler, matchmaker and promoter, publicist, charity worker, ambassador and so on. Mick's standing in wrestling during the 1960s and 1970s overshadowed any oversized silhouettes that dominated wrestling following his retirement.

To the very end of his life he protected the integrity and reputation of the business he loved and to which he devoted his life. Knowing this day would come soon cannot help but lessen the sense of loss.

tony pym-hember

Hi what a sad day for a great man, yes he should have been Knighted. I met Mick in Camden Town in the 60s. I went to the Parkway Cafe in Camden Town which was owned by Leo Demetrius a Greek Champion in his day. Mick came in one Saturday the place went quiet you could hear a pin drop. Mick turned round and said who cannot afford another coffee. I put my hand up Mick came over and gave me a shilling and said why was I shaking, its not every day you meet the great Mick McManus. He asked, still laughing, was I frightened of him. I said no I respected him he asked my name. We went to the ring round the back. I borrowed some gear as I didn't have any. I must have looked a mess. Mick couldn't stop laughing. Mick asked Leo did I have a licence? No was the reply. Mick said get him a licence then, I should be good in a few years time. I was in care and had been in a childrens home so could not get a licence so that was the end for me as a wrestler I used to go to as many bouts as I could to see Mick and carried on training at Leo's place. Mick McManus was in my eyes a great man who would have given me a chance in life. You will always be in my heart Mick a great but humble man to all who knew you.

GED

Just heard the sad news about Mick. I must have seen most (if not all) his TV matches and he never failed to deliver on all counts. Condolences to all involved in Mick's private life at this difficult time.

HILLARY

I just found out that one of England's great wrestlers, Mick McManus, died yesterday. He will be sadly missed by me as I grew up watching Mick McManus on tv and a few times I was lucky to see him live at Fairfield Hall in Croydon. I thought he was a really a great entertainer. He will be sadly missed not only by me but all his fans which I'm such he had lots.

Ray Hulm

Mick was a truly great worker who could play the crowd like a musical instrument. He may not have been the most popular man in the business but his skill and commitment were beyond doubt. In many ways Mick was the epitome of 50's - 60's wrestling creating an air of believability and first rate entertainment at the same time. Here on WH the wrestling of the 50's and 60's is recognised as a high point in the history of the game. I think that we were lucky to see it and especially lucky to see Mick McManus.

Simon Hickie

R.I.P. Mick. Your tag team partnership with the late great Steve Logan was one of the greats and few will forget the great match-ups with Bert Royal and Vic Faulkner.

Philip Kenyon

Just heard the sad news about Mick McManus. He was truly one of the greats of wrestling. In my opinion with his TV. appearances he really put wrestling on the map in the 60's and even later. My thoughts go to the family on their sad loss.

Jop Fourie

Condolences to Mick's family on his passing on. He had a good innings. Never saw him wrestle but heard many a good complement about him from South African wrestlers that wrestled in the UK. RIP MICK.

Laurie

I never met Mick, but my dad, GRANVILLE LAWRENCE, said he was one of nature's gentlemen, nothing like the villain he played in the ring. May he rest in peace in the great ring in the sky.

Jim Allen

A sad day still good to watch him on YouTube. RIP Mick.

Birdman

Anyone born before 1967 not knowing of the late Mick McManus must have been born in a cave.

Nik A

Another great Wrestler passes away and takes with it a big part of those who were around to see him (live or on TV). You were guaranteed a great match if Mick was in it and to hear him talk back to the crowd as they shouted abuse just added to it all. RIP Mick McManus

PETER

This is really is the passing of an era. REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY!#

bob anthony

A sad day for the wrestling world. I was fortunate to have had many matches with niggly Mick, as we called him. As far back as 1960/61 when in my home town of Chelmsford, Mick and I battled for his Southern Area Title, in a series of matches. These matches are still remembered, and were heavily featured in an article as recent as September 15, 2011, in the Essex Chronicle, a whole page devoted to wrestling memories. I also wrestled Mick, in a T.V. match, cup final day in 1981. I leave you to work out how old he was, but he was as great as ever. He, and his wife Barbara, were very much a part of the great wrestling era, that we all remember, and were fortunate to be a part of.

Jim Driver

Member

Posts: 1

I was privileged to have met and interviewed Mick. A true gentleman who genuinely deserved the OBE that never came.

TERRY HUNT

RIP Mick met him loads of times in Brighton a real gentleman and certainly knew how to get the crowd worked up.

John

I was very sad to hear of the death of Mick McManus. I also noticed from final confirmation of his date of birth, 11th January 1921, after hearing various different dates given over the years. When he had his last bout on TV, against Catweazle, in May 1982, he would have been 61 years old! He was still putting in very decent performances in his

last few years in the ring, in my opinion. I had read elsewhere that he had tremendous stamina. He must have been very fit to keep wrestling for all the years that he did.

Martin Pickles

We met Mick and his wife many times at our restaurant and they were just great. Very sorry to say goodbye. One of the best and most entertaining (and tough!) wrestlers ever. RIP

Romany Riley:

I had some great times with Mick and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. RIP Mick.

titless

Very sad news. Without doubt Mick McManus was largely responsible for making wrestling as popular as it was back in the 60's and 70's. He will be fondly remembered even though we tuned in in the hope that he would be beaten! R.I.P. Mick.

Tom H

A legend in wrestling, R.I.P Mick.

Dave Payn

RIP Mick. My father (Tony Ancell) always talked with fond memories of Mick, and have memories of meeting him too as a child. Thoughts are with the family at this time.

Graham Bawden

Sad to hear of Mick McManus's untimely passing on 22 May. Mick was a great credit to British wrestling. Whenever you talked about wrestling Mick's name always came up. Who can forget his epic battles with Jackie Pallo? They really put British wrestling on the map. RIP Mick.

Ray Neal

Sorry to hear about Mick McManus passing on 22 May. I had some great bouts with Mick. Master of the ring. He will be sadly missed. A legend. R.I.P.

bmac

There is a part of Mick McManus all wrestlers would love to have been - but we could only copy RIP

Peter M.

I was very sad to hear of the sad passing of Mick McManus this week. I wish to send my sincere Condolences to all his Family & Friends. Mick was a true Gent, up there with the Greatest Wrestlers & Entertainers. When you saw 'McManus & Logan' on the Poster, you knew you were gonna be in the company of 'Greats'. Farewell Mick, RIP.

livingstone beckles

I was a very young man from Barbados 50 +years ago when a friend I was visiting said to me, "Hey Livy, look at this white guy beating up this black fellow in wrestling. I took a look and was captivated by this man called McManus, I was deeply amused by his antics and realized it was just a good and entertaining game although every one was going bananas wanting the other fellow flatten him. He was a wonderful sports man, and I love him all of these years, Its sad to see him go and my respect goes to him and his family a lovely man of the sport he will long be remembered.

barney

A great innings and a true professional. Mick worked wonders for British professional wrestling. He deserved every boo and every accolade. Unlikely to ever be repeated - peerless. Thanks for the memories.

Peter Kinch / Little Toby

A very sad loss for everyone especially for the wrestling world. My thoughts are with all the family. I remember some some great times in Peckham and Camberwell. God bless you Mick R.I.P.

Fairfax:

Very sorry to hear of the passing of Mick McManus. He was a true star. RIP

Butts Giraud

I always enjoyed Mick's smiling face.....On my wrestling trips overseas he was always very helpful! My thoughts and prayers are with you all, and especially with his family. We will miss this true legendwho will never be forgotten!! Thanks for letting me know. God Bless.

CHRIS NEWMAN

The Wrestling Heritage Editorship couldn't have put it better. Signing off with ... "The End of An Era." For that's precisely what it was, when in the week past, someone who could genuinely be called one of "The All Time Greats" of Professional Wrestling ... very sadly passed into the great Squared Circle beyond, at the very ripe old age of 93. That for me shone out like the ring spotlight itself. "93". Where HAS all that time gone, since I first started to take any notice of wrestler Mick McManus, the fearsome Dulwich Destroyer. In fact it was around 1961. All of 52 years ago. As for that spotlight it's one impossible to dim. EVEN as a mark of respect for someone like Mick. For in direct contrast to the dark, arch-villain persona he exuded to perfection in the wrestling ring, his own particular "Bright Light" shone metaphorically like a beacon from the top of every corner post in the land - over the profession he graced seemingly forever. It's like Mick has always been there, such was his presence and the enormous contribution he made, to what was at one-time, one of the most popular sports in the nation. Also - one of its most marvellous pieces of natural theatre.

Performances were carried out throughout the land. From backstreet, old fashioned Swimming Baths, Pier Pavilions, Corn Exchanges or Civic Halls to the lush, Royal, surroundings of the Albert Hall. We either went along to the various venues (the latter if you were very lucky) or you also watched the bouts in your living room - after commercial television allowed us in on the action - sometimes as much as twice a week.

Mick did it all, and he fought with tremendous zeal to wear those much sought after Wrestling Championship Belts. From the fiercely coveted "London Manor" Southern Area Welterweight belt, to the later crowning achievement - and retention of the European Middleweight title. All this, during what was to become halcyon time for the grapple game - as by the super-seventies - television went colour.

So many abiding memories of Mick McManus Professional Wrestler & all round wrestling ambassador/promoter ... that ... well ! ... where to start?

I think maybe his early sixties menace was king.

That raven - and back then - widows peak hair style. And the wearing before the fight of a short to the waist jacket – he all but resembled, a tough, sort ‘em out, biker in leather.

For the benefit of crowd and camera, he also wore a combined expression of sneer and grimace. Sending everyone from schoolboys, to hardened regular wrestling punters - and otherwise dear old grannies - into out of character raging fury. Thereby without the aid of a magic potion (just the magic of wrestling) altering “Jekyll and Hyde like” - the personality of normally ordinary folk in the street - into blazing infernos of anger. For they thirsted to see this highly aggressive and fierce looking, sneaky, blindside, dirty fighter, cut down, from his already short - but ultra tough – stocky-stance. Mick probably looked tougher than even the most famous of movie villains. However none of them snarled, cursed and muttered as unintelligibly as this particular mean machine. McManus was a force of nature that got immediately right down to business, as he flew out of his corner - at the sound of the opening bell.

This wrestling outlaw also rode out with another mean, “fore-arm slinger” named Logan as Mick and Steve became one of the ultimate “bad-men” wrestling tag-teams.

Yet in solo action they both wrestled for their city of “London” in a fondly remembered European challenge tournament versus “Paris”, in the Summer of 68, in aid of St John’s Ambulance. This took place at the “Albert” - and in the presence of none other than wrestling fan - the Duke Of Edinburgh.

Another certain wrestler was on that bill.

Jackie Pallo – Mick’s greatest ever ring rival.

A rivalry that was as synonymous in wrestling as that of Ali/Frazier was in boxing.

This time though Mick & Jackie fought side by side for an old London Town, that wrestling-wise, they ruled territorially. Pallo in the North. McManus in the South. So now the two sworn enemies were temporarily teamed - to see that the Parisian invader would not alter - (as if they could) - that particular - status quo.

That was a wonderful thing. For the likes of Mick McManus and Co wrestled back in those days, with genuine, tangible, pride.

For both Mick Manus & Jackie Pallo aren’t really gone at all. There are merely in the Wrestling Hall next door. For somewhere, “if only”, in our fondest memories, they’ll be planning another winner takes all grudge clash - amid trading the usual quips, threats, insults etc, as they did back in the day raising the stakes for every wrestler around that time and the excitement level of every punter that ever watched them.

Rest In Peace Mick - and be assured that the memories you gave and the architecture of having done much to create the massive cult that British Pro Wrestling became “Will Live Forever”.

rayneal

Sorry to hear about Mick McManus passing on 22 may i had some great bouts with Mick, master of the ring He will be sadly missed, a legend, R.I.P. regards.

palais fan

By the time I first saw Mick wrestle at the Wimbledon Palais, in 1958, Mick had been a regular on the bill, clocking up around 40 matches since he first appeared there, in 1951. I was lucky enough to see most of the 50+ bouts he had there between 1958 and 1969, and I can't recall a match he was in, that wasn't anything other than very entertaining.

Mick played the South London tough guy, to perfection. His inside moves, on the blind-side of the ref, always seemed dastardly and the crowd would be animated as soon as he 'bent' the rules. As a tag wrestler. with Steve Logan, he sometimes played the roll of being on the receiving end of punishment, to the ears and elsewhere, and in need of the services of his bigger, stronger, and equally tough, partner . I think one of his greatest abilities as a pro-wrestler, was selling his opponents moves. He literally bounced when thrown across the canvas and wrestlers, young and old, were able to rely on Mick to help then look good. How he managed to keep injury-free enough to wrestle until his early 60s, is down to his professionalism, and to the professionalism of his opponents.

All fans of wrestling in the heritage era, will have great memories of Mick on TV and at their local halls. However, my abiding memory of him is away from the hurly burly of one of his many excellent wrestling performances. I was lucky enough to have a brief conversation with him at a wrestlers reunion, in Kent, a few years ago.

By chance, I was at the bar of The Bridges when Mick came into the pub accompanied by Mal Mason. I thanked Mick for the great entertainment over the years, bought him a drink, and he said that he recalled being in some great matches at The Wimbledon Palais. He was polite and friendly, and I went out the door feeling 10 feet tall.

Luckily I bumped into Ray Plunkett, who was in the pub garden with a group of French wrestlers, and I mentioned that Mick was in the bar. Ray suggested that I should nip back into the pub to let Mick know that the French wrestlers were very keen to meet him, I jumped at the chance, and it was great to see them greet Mick so warmly.

By all accounts, Mick was an intelligent, interesting and business like man, as well as a great wrestler. I was so glad to have the opportunity to say thanks to him for all the entertainment he gave 3 generations of my family.

Anglo Italian

Great stuff Palais Fan. That's what being a fan is all about.

Joe Snow

I don't really venture to this board often, but I thought I'd come here particularly to see such a thread. Was very sad to hear of the loss of Mick. Very interesting to hear old stories and thoughts of one of the all time great villains.

ken sowden

Some great tributes for Mick here, so good to see that he was still highly respected within the wrestling world, I hope that if his family read these messages they can take some comfort from the love given to Mick.....the last of the legends may be gone but he will never be forgotten.

Sally Garrington

My parents managed the Festival Inn at Trowell from 1957 - 1962 (approximately!). I remember the wrestling being televised from there, as a child. I can remember, Mick McManus (a gentle, loving man who was brilliant with me when I had arguments with my father!). Gentle and loving! Just think how hard Mick worked down the years to conceal this side of his character.

Peter M

Morning Everyone. Well. Today, is a sad but poignant day We bid our Respect and Farewells to Mick Mcmanus. Today at 12.30 is the internment of Mick at Woking Crematorium. I wanted to pay my respects and go but work commitments prevent me from doing so. However, I will find time today to ,think of Mick & and appreciate how he brought myself & millions great enjoyment.....Farewell Mick ,We will miss you. God Bless You.

Dale Storm

Its taken me till now to pass a fairly comprehensive comment on the sad demise of the man who without any doubt was always at the forefront of British Professional Wrestling in the memories of the Saturday Afternoon Fans. "Michael McManus" was and still is the name on the lips of those whom I tend to meet in the street or in the pub or even on holiday abroad. No one else is consistently talked about or remembered. And no one could argue that he was then, and still is a legend for the fans of the Grappling Game. Whether you liked the man or not or did or did not work with him in the ring. You still can't deny the fact that ITV Wrestling made him and he in turn helped in a huge way to make that 4pm slot even bigger and more and more unmissable! That statement is now just a little clich'ed but nevertheless its true. He along with one or two others regularly turned your Mother, your favourite Auntie and even your Old Granny into a monster. Who if they could have would have instantly transported themselves into that ring on the box to administer some rough justice to Mick. Because he was supposedly dishing out his brand of rule bending blows, right in front of their eyes to his poor, put-upon opponent. And if they were fortunate enough to buy a ticket to one of his live appearances, then mayhem could and definately would have ensued. Not a lot of people know this, but he was a life member of Equity the actors union, not something easily achievable believe me. I'm truly thankful that platforms like this one now exist for folks like me to remember and to discuss my peers and to give me this opportunity to comment on a small part of this man's God given life. Yesterday was a huge day for "Niggly" and for many of those who worked with him and who knew him well. They were there to see him off and that's as it should be. I was not there, purely because I never really knew the man personally, but that is not to say he was not in my thoughts. I only shared a dressing room with him once, and that was a long time ago now. If my memory serves me correctly, I was only there because I had been brought in as a substitute on that Bill. He never spoke and rather sadly never did I. That seemed to be the way back then, when you were a young lad from a Coal Pit Area and you were in the presence of perceived Ring Royalty! He has now left us, but just as he was still remembered and debated after all the years that have flown passed since 1988. He will stll be talked about and further debated in the years to come of that I have no doubt. RIP Mr Michael McManus Super Star!

Recky

I only found out about Micks passing just the other day. My grandad (who was a Scot from Partick) and my uncle (born in Scotland raised in Aussie from 1955] got me into

wrestling and I can clearly remember the old bloke saying whilst watching Aussie wrestlers ply their trade and I quote, " These blokes canne wrestle, MICK MCMANUS now he could wrestle"...R.I.P Mick

matey dave

I find it amazing how much affection has been shown to Mick McManus from so many who entered the ring with him and how many have opened up their hearts. Tony St Clair spoke much about both of them, thank you tony. Thanks to those who confirmed what I have always suspected was the real Mick McManus.

graleman

Just like to say, thanks Mick for all the Years you served the wrestling world. Without you, it would not have been the same place it was. God knows how many wrestlers you helped through during you fantastic career. As a man, you were the total opposite of your character in the ring. Your door never closed, your willingness to help ones, even when they never deserved

rasit huseyinThe original TV superstar and a great heel, and a proper legend. RIP Mick McManus.