21st September 2025

BRITISH WRESTLING HISTORY HAS A NAME

HERITAGE

The Spirit of Heritage – Celebration and Sharing



The Wrestling Heritage Award 2025

14th September, 2025

Colin Joynson



Celebrating the sixth winner of the Wrestling Heritage Award

Colin Joynson

Celebration and sharing; that's the spirit of Wrestling Heritage. Each year the Wrestling Heritage Award goes to someone who shares that spirit. This year the recipient is a man who made his wrestling debut over sixty years ago, and yet still shares his love of the sport with those in his company.

Congratulations to Colin Joynson.

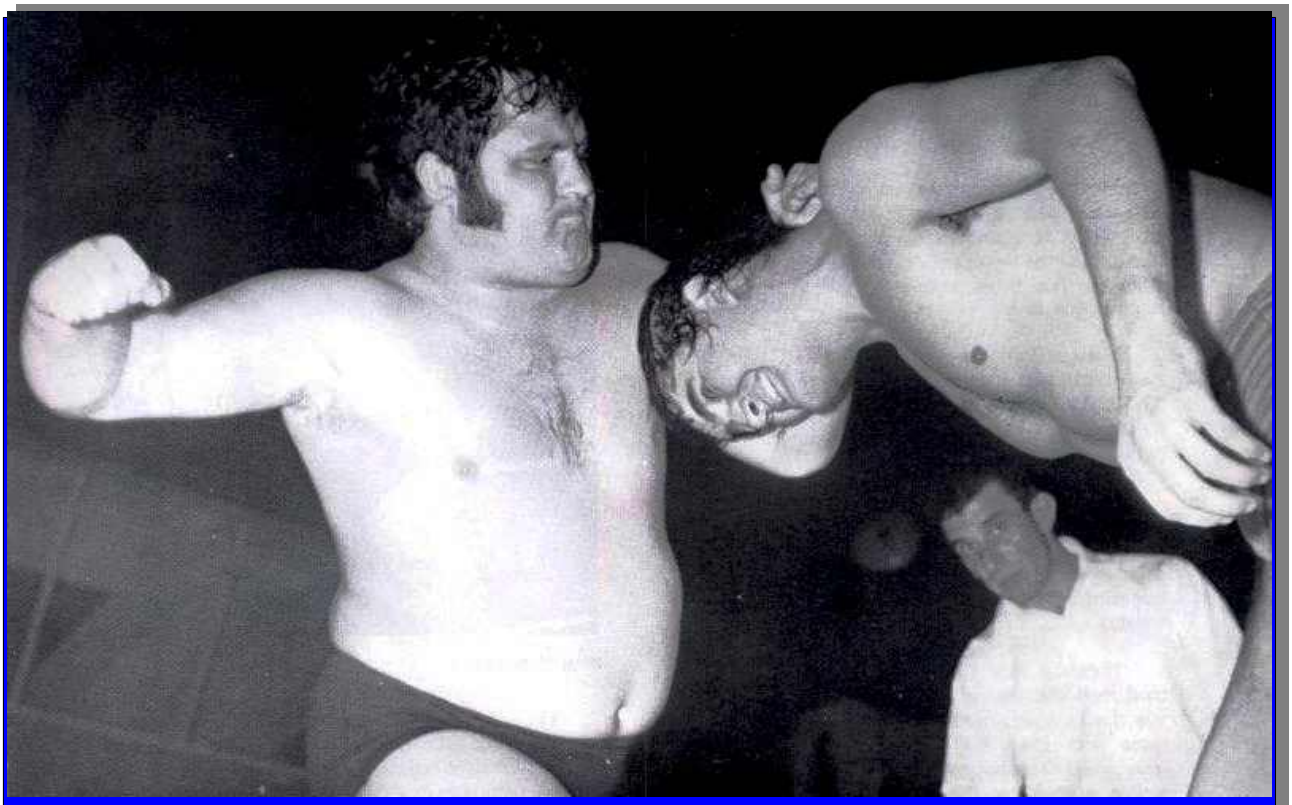
Long before the name British Bulldog became marketing hype for American promoters the wrestling fans of Britain enjoyed their own, more authentic, pedigree bulldog. Admittedly the Bulldog tag was attached in the latter part of Colin Joynson's career but the characteristics of guts, energy, determination and tenacity were apparent in young Joynson's ring style from the early years.

Our memories and admiration of the Bulldog go back to when he was, so to speak, a mere pup of the ring. The youthful Colin Joynson of those days was a high flying young welterweight in regular tussles with those other northern newcomers Terry Downs, Al Brown, Roy St Clair, Johnny Eagles and more established professionals that included Romeo Joe Critchley, Jim Mellor and Tommy Mann.

In those days the boy could fly. Goodness, could he fly. There were few faster and we saw no one go higher, as promoter Jack Atherton discovered on the night he docked money from Colin's pay after he sprung so high that his foot caught, and shattered, one of the ring lights, covering the mat in glass.

As he matured and graduated through the weights Colin lost little of the speed, none of the energy, became even more gutsy and added to this dynamic cocktail a good dash of strength and more effective use of submission holds. We can think of few others, if any, whose physical development allowed them to provide credible opposition for such a disparate array of stars as George Kidd, Mick McManus, Jackie Pallo, Steve Logan, Jon Guil Don, Big Daddy and Kendo Nagasaki. This man really did meet them all.

Towards the end of Colin's career television commentator Kent Walton never failed to remind viewers that Colin was known in Germany as "The Pocket Tank." We can only



assume that the name was meant as a compliment but think British Bulldog was a more elegant way of conveying the same sentiments.

The increased poundage, power and energy enabled Colin Joynson's career to evolve over the years from the fresh faced speed merchant of the sixties to an exciting warhorse, sorry Bulldog, of the eighties. Even at the very end of his career, a televised World Mid Heavyweight challenge for Marty Jones' championship belt, Colin was as exciting, entertaining and totally professional as at any other time in his professional life.

The word professional surfaces fairly quickly whenever thoughts turn to Colin Joynson. He was, and still is, the ultimate professional. Colin was always protective of the image of professional wrestling, and was not afraid to stand up to whoever he felt may harm the credibility of the sport or bring the business into disrepute. He remains so to this day, decades after leaving the ring, and whilst willing to discuss the sport in a mature, honest way remains protective of the wrestling heritage in which he played such an important part. And rightly so.

The guts, determination and courage that made Colin Joynson a star of the ring are no pre-fabricated ring image but an extension of his out of ring personality. We found innumerable examples of those qualities manifesting themselves throughout his life. Colin was the one who faced the promoters to express the concerns that others were too timid to raise. This led to him being sacked by certain promoters on more than one occasion, and then being re-instated a few weeks later, or the same day in one case!

Determination and courage again when, as a pub landlord, he took on the might of Britain's largest brewery in a legal battle that was finally concluded in the European Court of Justice.



Then there was the time he drove home from a match against Keith Martinelli, with his leg broken! Another opportunity for Colin's lovely wife, Helen, to give him one of those despairing looks and words of "advice" in the way that only a northern woman can!

Most significantly of all was the courage and determination demonstrated when illness resulted in the loss of Colin's leg. With a determination that none of us can imagine Colin overcame the obstacles to get his life back to as near normal as possible. Colin stressed the support of the wrestling fraternity who "Got behind me at the time. I had messages of support from wrestlers all over the world, it was incredible. In wrestling you are part of one big family."

This is not the place to discuss whether Colin's gutsy personality is the result of inheritance or environment but it does seem reasonable to conclude that much of his ring style was influenced by the man who trained him all those years ago.Jim Hussey had been working the rings of Britain for two decades when he took teenager Colin under his wing and trained him in the ways of the wrestling world. He did a good job, of that there is no doubt, and Colin only had a couple of matches for the independent promoters before he was signed up by Wryton Promotions and moved across to Joint Promotion rings.



Colin didn't leave his career progression to chance. Call it self-assurance, the confidence of youth, or just downright cheek, but after those two independent shows Colin approached Yorkshire promoter Ted Beresford and announced he was ready for work. Ted arranged a trial with Wryton Promotions confident that forty-five minutes on the mat with Martin Conroy would either end him or mend him.

Following the trial Colin went home and waited for the verdict. He didn't wait long, because two weeks later he was matched with Bobby Steel at Neath. Those forty-five minutes led to twenty eight years in the professional wrestling ring. For the following three years Colin worked throughout the midlands and northern England, mostly for Wryton Promotions but also for Bill Best and Jack Atherton.

National exposure came in 1963 with a television debut against Terry Downs, followed by matches against Linde Caulder and Shem Singh. The boy did well. So well in fact that Dale Martin Promotions didn't just bring him south, they brought him south to make a Royal Albert Hall debut against Jackie Pallo in the main event of June, 1964. It was to be the first of seven Royal Albert Hall bookings.



By 1965 Colin was travelling south on a regular basis and was established as a national figure on the British wrestling scene. The quality of television opponents offers evidence of the youngster's growing stature - George Kidd, Johnny Kwango,N'Boa the Snakeman and Steve Logan being amongst the half a dozen he faced on tv in 1965. As readers will be aware this was to be no fleeting success; but few may realise that Colin Joynson appeared on British television for eighteen consecutive years from 1963 until 1980, with seventy televised contests.

In the world of wrestling Colin was one of Britain's greatest exports. He wrestled in the German tournaments for many summers, and the Joynson family would set up home in one of the German cities from April until September. Colin was also well known in Belgium and France, and joined Billy Robinson, Johnny Eagles, Barry Douglas, John Lees and Tony Charles in the British offensive into Japanese rings in 1970, returning again the following year.

Wherever he wrestled it was always important to Colin that he did a good job. For him it wasn't the winning, nor just the taking part, but making sure that the fans went home happy. Two particularly satisfying nights for Colin Joynson fans must have been in two endurance tournaments. On 5th September, 1970, at Hanley, he KO'd Vic Faulkner, gained the only fall required over Steve Logan and was then disqualified in his contest with Alan Wood. On 16th September, 1972 fate dealt another cruel blow. Colin defeated Marty Jones and Rollerball Rocco by the odd fall before being KO'd by Bobby Barnes.

Many readers will remember Colin's tag partnership with Steve Haggetty. As fans we may have booed them, but we remember them with fondness. Read our tribute to these two Dangermen in the Armchair Corner article Much Ado About Nothing.

Whilst justifiably proud of the part he played for the best part of three decades Colin makes no claims to have been any sort of wrestling superstar. His name may not be the first to spring to mind when discussing wrestling, but genuine fans know how much the business relied on men such as Colin. As we have commented on many occasions, without his kind there would have been no Mick McManus's, Jackie Pallo's or Kendo Nagasaki's of the wrestling world. In the professional wrestling ring the saying of cream rising to the top rarely rang true. The biggest names in wrestling relied on wrestlers like Colin to find success. The generosity of this talented wrestler allowed others to shine, and as such he was truly part of wrestling's elite.

Heritage News

What's new and what's coming

New to Heritage This Week



New in People/Wrestlers A-Z

Roy Heffernan

https://wrestlingheritage.co.uk/roy-heffernan/



New in Events/The Ruslan Papers

Clog Fighting Tales Part 4
Shin Kicking Games

https://wrestlingheritage.co.uk/clog-fighting-tales-part-4/

Anniversaries
What's Occurrin?
This Week

What Was Going On This Week In Years Past?

What's Occurrin?

https://wrestlingheritage.co.uk/this-week-21st-september/

Heritage News

What's new and what's coming

Anniversary of Sydney 2000

Tuesday marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the start of the Sydney Olympic Games wrestling tournament.

Not only was Wrestling Heritage's Graeme Cameron there, he officiated at the event.

Enjoy Graeme's memories of this memorable events in Wrestling Heritage .....

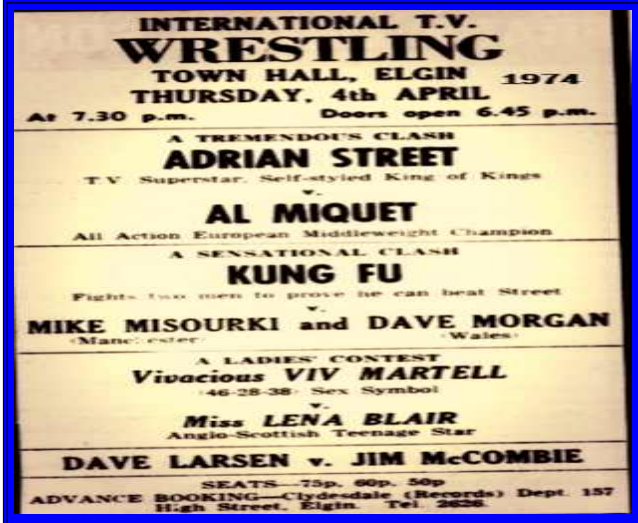


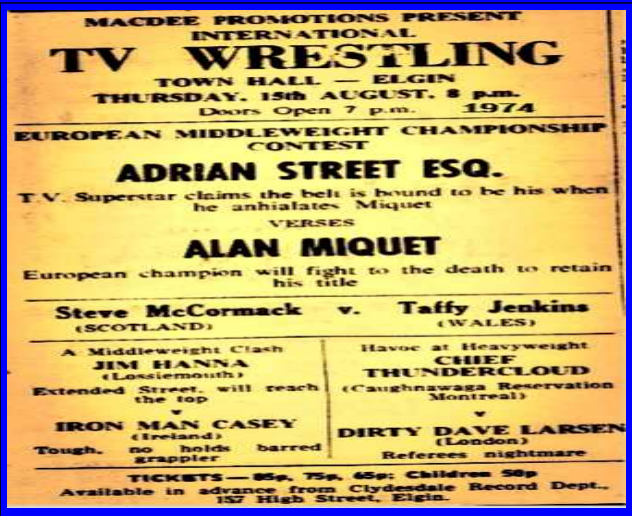
My Olympic Experience

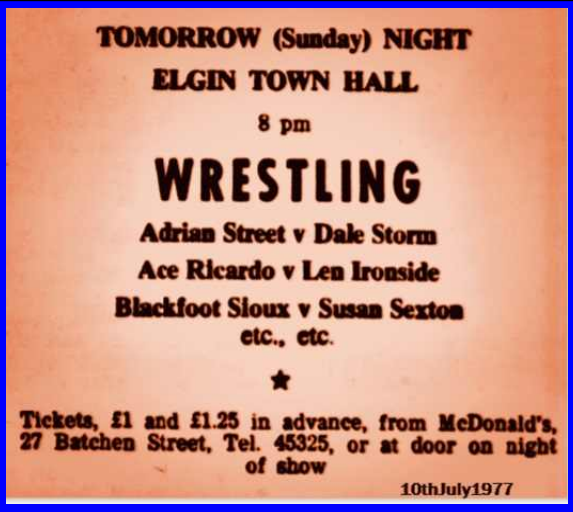
https://wrestlingheritage.co.uk/my-olympic-experience-part-1/

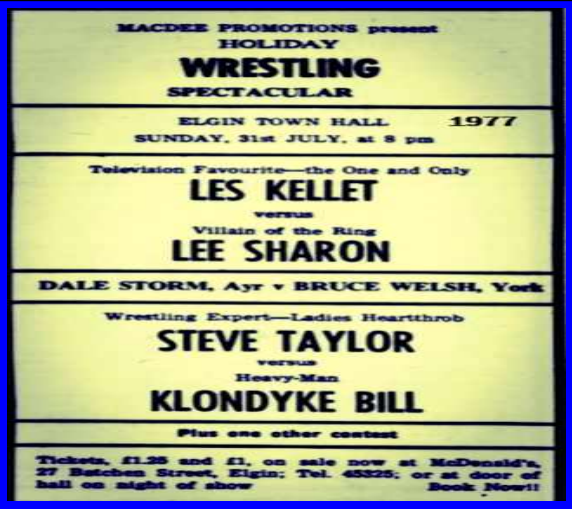
Around The Halls With Ron Historyo

Elgin

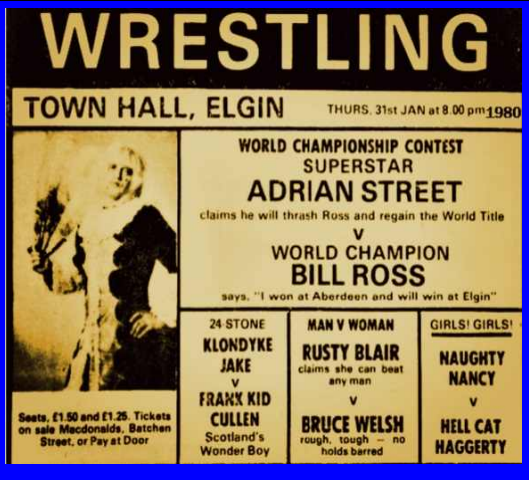












SATURDAY, 19th NOV. 1966 TOWN HALL, ELGIN
Commencing 8 p.m. Doors Open 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Sensational Attraction direct from Hollywood

The Wrestling Midgets

GEORGEOUS FUZZY KAY v. **TINY TIM GALLAHER**

The 3 ft. 2 in. star from the "Snow White and Seven Dwarfs" film. A real giant at 3 ft. 6 in.

The Stupendous Challenge Tag Match

THE GHOUL and THE OUTLAW v. THE CAMPBELLS 60 Minutes Duration.

£200 A SIDE.

Plus TWO TOP SUPPORTING CONTESTS

Advance Booking—Barr Cochrane, Music Shop, Elgin.

The promoters reserve the right to vary or omit any part of the programme.

OLYMPIA PROMOTIONS (BIRMINGHAM) LTD.
—PRESENTS—

BIG TIME

WRESTLING

TOWN HALL, ELGIN
SATURDAY, 15th APRIL 1967
At 8 p.m. Doors open 7 p.m.

SENSATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT
—THREE TAG MATCHES IN ONE NIGHT—Two Semi-finals, One Grand Finale—£500 Prize Money to Winning Team

TEAMS

Klondyke Bill 34-stone Man Mountain —AND—	*The Outlaw* T.V.'s Masked Star —AND—
Hillbilly Coverdale 26-stone Mammoth	*The Destroyer* Notorious Masked Wrestler
Bronco Jack Cassidy Colourful Gunslinging Cowboy —AND—	*Chief Thunderbird* Sensational Wrestling Mo —AND—
Jumping Jim Moser T.V.'s Drop-Kick Specialist	*Neil Sullivan* Tough, Rough ex-Welsh Miner

EIGHT ROUND LIGHTWEIGHT THRILLER
Ian St John v. Andreas Svajick
Scottish Lightweight Champion T.V. Favourite

Seats—15/-, 10/6, 8/6, 6/6
Advance Booking—
Barr Cochrane, 142 High Street, Elgin; tel. 2236
Ensure your seat for this Spectacular —— Book Early

TOWN HALL, ELGIN SATURDAY, 22nd MAY 1965
Doors open 7 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.

ALL STAR FREE STYLE WRESTLING

North Western Promotions Ltd. (Members of British Wrestling Federation) proudly present another ALL STAR BILL.

SENSATIONAL 10 ROUND HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
Direct from Madison Square Gardens

KLONDYKE BILL
40 stone. Heaviest man in European rings. First time ever in Britain. Discovered in the Klondyke by Lou Thez. Heavyweight Champion of the World.

Versus

ROCKY CALHOUN
(Texas). Ex-U.S. Marine Commando, undefeated in 20 fights of his European tour. Don't miss this—OVER 60 STONE in the RING AT ONCE.

8 Round Lightheavyweight Contest

SHEIK ALI BEN YOUSEF
(Lebanon) Versus
DUNCAN McROBERT
(Glasgow). First fight in Scotland after returning from South Africa. Extremely clever and agile.

8 Round Middleweight Bout

JIM JEFFRIES
(Leicester) Fast and clever

Versus

PETE LINDBERG
(Austria) Strong and versatile matman.

8 Round Catchweight Contest

ZULU
The Wrestling Witchdoctor

Versus

GUISEPI MARTINELLI
(Naples) Lightheavyweight Champion of Italy.

POPULAR PRICES

Advance Booking:—Barr Cochrane and Son, 142 High Street Elgin (Tel. 2236); Geo. A. Smith, 10 Batchen Street, Elgin (Tel. 2569), or pay at door night of show. Ensure your seat for this spectacular—BOOK NOW.

TOWN HALL, ELGIN
Cape Promotions proudly present

WRESTLING

SATURDAY, 16th NOVEMBER 1968
Doors Open 7.00 p.m. Commence 7.30 p.m.
Forget the Television ——Come to Live Show
These Boys have never appeared before in Scotland!
The World-famous Wrestling MIDGETS

CHIEF LITTLE BEAVER
The Red Indian Midget Brave. Full of Warwhoops and Rope Tricks v.

TINY TOM THUMB
The cleverest Midget Wrestler in the world to-day. He is a sensation. Don't miss him!

Middleweight Contest
GEORGE NOVAK
Polish Star v.
DAVE KERNDAY
Dundee From the George Kidd stable

Catchweight Contest
DANNY FLYNN
The wild Irishman v.
IAN ST. JOHN
Brilliant Dundee boy.

Special Ladies' Contest
KLONDYKE KATE
The huge American girl bigger than Jake
v.
NAUGHTY NANCY BARTON
The dark-haired beauty and Queen of the ring

POPULAR PRICES Book now at Barr Cochrane Music Shop

TOWN HALL —— ELGIN
Cape Promotions proudly present

WRESTLING

SATURDAY, 27th APRIL 1968
Doors Open 7.00 p.m. Commence 7.30 p.m.

The Outlaw
22 stone, and
The Monster
New York—25 stone

v.

King Jock Campbell
Prince of Scotland at 17 stone
Mad Murdoch Campbell
20-stone black-bearded Highlander

Heavyweight Contest—
KLONDYKE JAKE
The 40-stone Monster in person
v.
KEVIN KENEALLY
Ireland's Fighting Fool

All-action Contest—
CHINESE CHANGO
Singapore—Karate master
v.
THE ZULU
Hypnotises his opponents

Presenting the Mystery Man who sleeps in his coffin—
THE UNDERTAKER
This weird character takes his coffin into the ring with him
v.
DUNCAN FOSTER
Brilliant boy from Ayr—A future champion.

POPULAR PRICES—Book now at Barr Cochrane, Music Shop.

Macdee Promotions Present
ALL STAR INTERNATIONAL

T.V. WRESTLING

ELGIN TOWN HALL 1975
THURSDAY, 12th JUNE, 7.45 p.m.

Sensational return to Elgin of

JACKIE (Mr T.V.) PALLO
JACKIE PALLO Jnr.
In a fabulous Tag Contest with
THE BORG TWINS

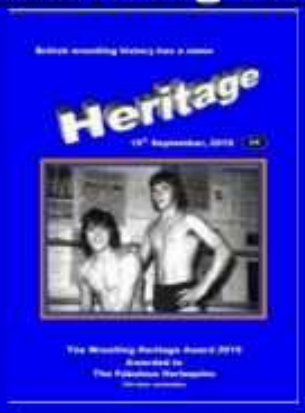
For the Wrestling Enthusiast our own

JIM HANNA
Versus
From The Black Diamond Tag Team
JOHN MONK
Guaranteed Excitement

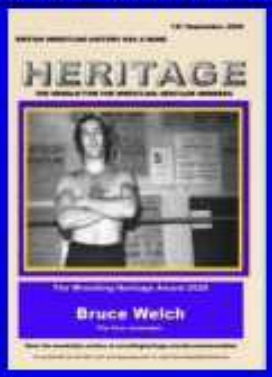
FULL FOUR CONTEST BILL

Tickets — £1 85p 75p 60p
Book now at Carmichaels, 48 South Street, Elgin.
Telephone 7982

Wrestling Heritage Award Winners



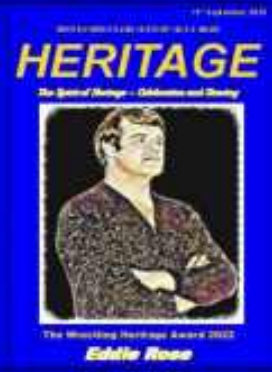
2019 The Harlequins



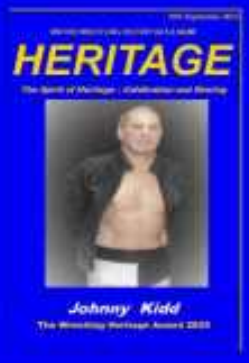
2020 Bruce Welch



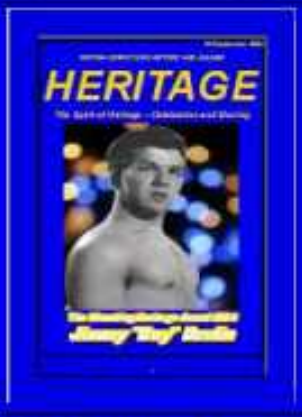
2021 Jackie Glitterboy Evans



2022 Eddie Rose



2023 Johnny Kidd



2024 Jimmy Devlin

The Drew Galloway Shield

The Drew Galloway Shield is presented each year on behalf of WRS friend and international star Drew Galloway. Each year Drew sends a DVD message to Reunion attendees which is played on the day.



Drew's family attend each Reunion and his father presents the Award to that year's recipient. When he offered the award Drew insisted that it should only be awarded to someone who had given the business 100%. The WRS has remained true to that wish

The winner of this year's Drew Galloway award was a man who travelled the world for thirty years following his debut in 1970. Respected by others in the business he was personally selected by the great Count Bartelli to be his final opponent. On that night he did the right thing. He lost. Known by a variety of names, The Masked Mummy, Tarantula, The Barbarian the winner of this year's Drew Gallery Shield was **Allan Turner.**



The Lionheart Award



Not a year goes by without the WRS celebrating the late Adrian Lionheart McCallum. His name and legacy continues with the annual award of the Lionheart Trophy to one of Scotland's outstanding wrestlers.

Female involvement in professional wrestling goes back a hundred years. The "Imperial Troupe of Lady Wrestlers" toured Britain in the 1930s, and in the 1960s Mitzi Mueller and Ann Barton broke down prejudice to make female wrestling mainstream. But with the foundations laid it makes it no easier to break through and become a powerful woman recognised in her own right.

Since turning professional in 2016 the achievements of this year's recipients have already gone far beyond the dreams of the 1960s stars and she has yet to reach her peak. She is a wrestler who has worked for the WWE under the NXT banner, has appeared at Wembley Stadium, worked in Denmark, Austria and Italy. The youngest ever ICW Women's World Champion, TNT tag team champion, Shooting Star champion, the list of titles goes on and on. She has the ability and the raw talent, but add to that her charisma and the fans are hypnotised as soon as she enters the hall. She is the Young Lioness who received the Lionheart Award from Jim Simpson … **Angel Hayze.**



A WRS Legend of Wrestling



WRS Legends of Wrestling have a sustained and successful career in the business. This Legend has worked the wrestling halls of Britain for more than twenty years. Like many of us he got interested in wrestling when he watched it on television. Giant Haystacks and Rollerball Rocco were his favourites and so he was destined to become a villain when he started out. That was following training by Robbie Brookside and Doc Dean. His professional debut was in Ayr, so today he was welcomed home.

Even though he came into pro wrestling at a time it was at its lowest ebb the promoters he has worked with reads like a Who's Who of late 20th century/early 21st century promoters - Max Crabtree, Brian Dixon, Ian McGregor, Orig Williams, BWFUK, Rebel Pro.

At times he's shared his wrestling career with his other love, music, singing in a metal band called Pyro. But today we celebrate a wrestler who has been known in the ring by a multitude of names, but today he was simply celebrated as a legend of wrestling and awarded by David Simpson..... **Mark Atkin**



The WRS Hall of Fame

In the 1960s and 1970s fans cheered the likes of Billy LaRue, Colin Joynson, Tarantula, and all the lads and lasses of the Old Mossblown Gym. Competition was fierce and making it through to the big time took determination, persistence, and resilience. At the end of the century and into the new century with the traditional career paths fragmented it became even more difficult. We can have nothing but respect for those who have sought to make a career of professional wrestling in the last thirty years. Even greater respect for those who have made it to the very top of their profession.

The WRS Hall of Fame celebrates the greatest wrestlers of the current age. This year's recipients will join Braveheart, Kid Fite, Lou King Sharp, Dave Maddison, Falcon, Adam Shame, Graham Mackay,Noam Dar, and Peter Murphy. That's great company and this year four stars joined them in the WRS Hall of Fame.

The first 2025 Hall of Famer turned professional, aged just 20, in 2005. He was trained by the best of the day – Adam Shame, Conscience Peter Murphy and Eric Canyon. He learnt his lessons well and went on to become Insane Championship Wrestling World champion, three times ICW tag champion, Main Event Wrestling Heavyweight champion plus titles for Pride Wrestling, Pro Wrestling Elite, Reckless Intent Wrestling, Scottish Wrestling Alliance and Target Wrestling, sharing a ring with the likes of Sabu, Drew McIntyre and many more.

Playing a key role in the rise of ICW as it's head writer he's been described as one of wrestling's most creative minds. The newest member of the WRS Hall of Fame was presented with his award by Mossblown gym's 1970s star Big Ian Miller ... **Chris Renfrew**



The WRS Hall of Fame

Living the dream can't start much lower than selling foam hands for Brian Dixon. That's where the next recipient started in return for some basic wrestling training.

Further training came from Klondyke Jake, his sons David and Darren, and Judo John Brown. He turned professional in 2001 initially working for Klondyke Jake, This led to extensive training by Jake the Snake Roberts before he travelled to Canada for further development in 2003.

Back in Britain he began promoting under the W3L banner and learned more of the business from Drew McDonald, Blondie Barratt and Ricky Knight. He picked up 9 Heavyweight Championships over 3 promotions and 4 Tag Team Championships over 2 promotions.

W3L has the longest running weekly wrestling show on YouTube and their big events are available on Demand Progress Plus in partnership with English independent promotion Progress Wrestling. The next member of the WRS Hall of Fame was **Mike Musso,** presented by Tarantula.



The WRS Hall of Fame

The next addition to the Hall of Fame has made an outstanding contribution to not just British wrestling, but wrestling around the world since turning professional.

For many wrestlers it takes years to break through. Not for this man as at just 18 years old he became the first ever Triple Crown Champion by holding the tag team championship of all three main promotions, PBW, BCW and ICW.

Furthermore, in 2015 and 2016 he became the first, and still the only wrestler given the honour of opening both of the Insane Championship Wrestlings biggest events, the sell out ICW Fear and Loathing 8 and 9 in front of 4,000 and 6,000 fans respectively. He's wrestled all over the UK, Italy, Denmark and Germany. When charisma was dished out he was at the front of the queue. The Award was presented by Dale Storm to **Davey Blaze**



The WRS Hall of Fame

The next inductee to the Hall of Fame has entertained fans around the country for twenty years. He's a man that respects, and has been keen to learn from the stars of the past, naming Johnny Saint, Marty Jones, Blondie Barratt, Johnny Kidd, Danny Boy Collins amongst those who he has been privileged to learn from.

It all started with four great trainers, to whom he remains truly grateful, Carl Conroy, Allan Grogan, Mike Musso and Dave Maddison. He's shared the ring with many of the greatest names in wrestling, men such as Blondie Barratt, Johnny Kidd, Abyss, Allan Grogan, Carl Conroy, Mike Musso, Invincible, Thunder, Joe E Lgend, Spinner McKensie, and Logan Storm. He's shared a ring with the best because he is one of the best.

A multiple title holder as singles heavyweight champion for W3L, and tag team champion for W3L, PBW and SWE, the Award was presented by Angel Hayze to **Nathan Reynolds**





In Memoriam

Remembering those who died this week in years gone by.

24 September 1981

Billy Torontos

Read our tribute to Billy Torontos

24 September 199

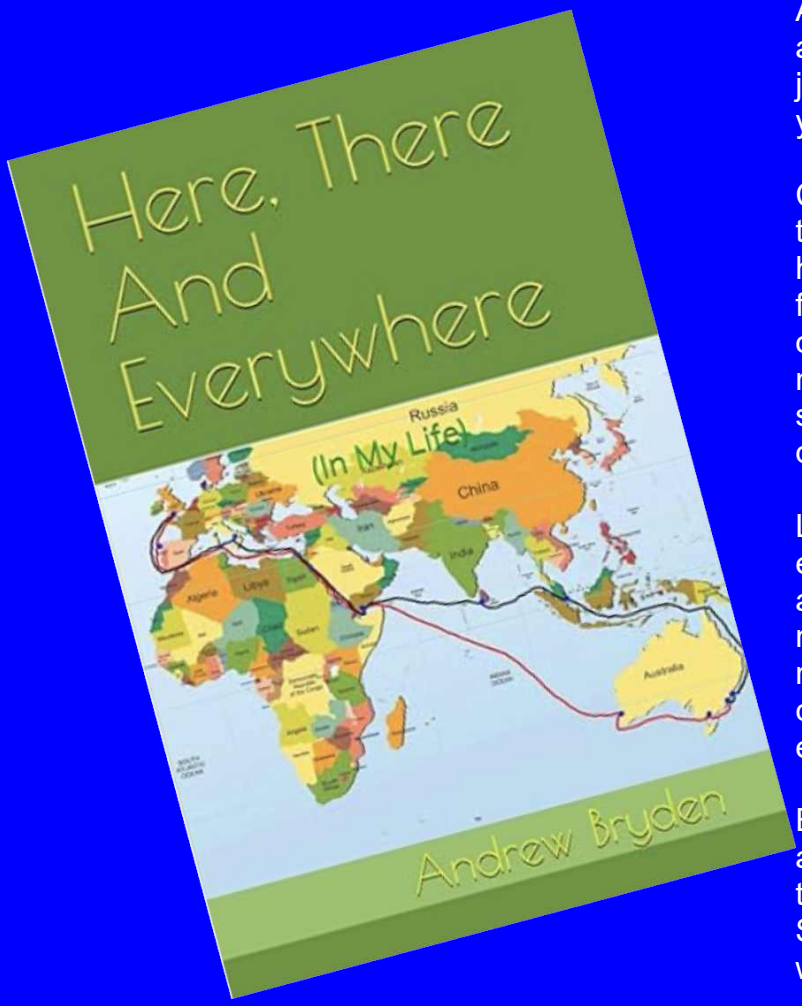
Roy Heffernan

Read our tribute to Roy Heffernan

25 September 1961

Jack Alker

Read our tribute to Jack Alker



A true story chronicling an adolescent Scots lad's journey through his teenage years.

Containing reminisces of those he encountered during his over five week long trip from the UK to Australia onboard a "Ten Pound Pom" migrant ship and those he spent time with after he disembarked in Sydney.

Life was good, life was exciting, life was enlightening and perhaps far more memorable because of the regular and varied female company he encountered and enjoyed.

Embarking on yet another adventure which involved him travelling full circle back to the Scots coal mining village from where his adventure began.

Get a feel for the really magical times he encountered in Oz.

Here, There And Everywhere (In My Life)

By Andrew Bryden

£10.99 from Amazon

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