

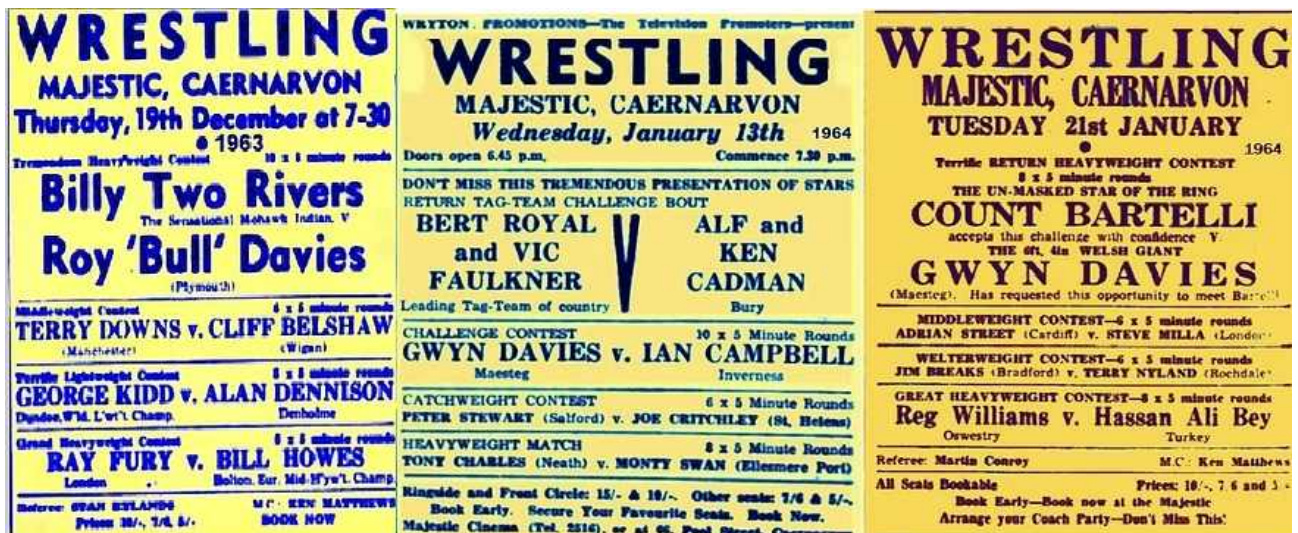
Ron Historyo goes where no man has been before

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

Caernarfon

<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/nooks-and-crannies-caernarfon>

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop



Wrestling was starting to grow again in the late 1950's and in 1958 Wryton opened the Wryton Stadium in Bolton. Peaking around 1963 most of my Nooks and Crannies pieces are based round the 1960's when TV gave wrestling such great popularity. Wryton did not venture very far east, probably because of the Pennines and got as far south as Wolverhampton. But North Wales was there for the taking.

The Stadium at Bolton was by no means the main Wryton venue, it had been an old Cinema saved from demolition and held one or maybe two hundred over a thousand at best. But there lies the template. Circa 1963/64, there was money to be made and if you could not go really big, a thousand or a little more was not a bad optimum.

That bench mark was used at Rhyl with the Gaiety Theatre and the Arcadia at Llandudno. I don't think the grip on Colwyn Bay was quite so important, the Pier Pavilion only holding 600 and problems with the ageing Pier, led to some moving about and also letting in the Independents.

Just over 100 miles from Manchester was Caernarfon (this is today's accepted spelling.) And again a cinema, The Majestic. Capacity about 1100. It's hard to think of anywhere

further in the Wryton portfolio. Riley and Atherton were doing the Isle of Man. This was an outer limit and for that reason I think I will call it a Nook and Crannie.

It started in 1963, you can see that it is typical Wryton, Bert and Vic versus the Cadmans, some reliable Yorkshire boys coming over to help, and big names at that time Two Rivers and Ian Campbell.

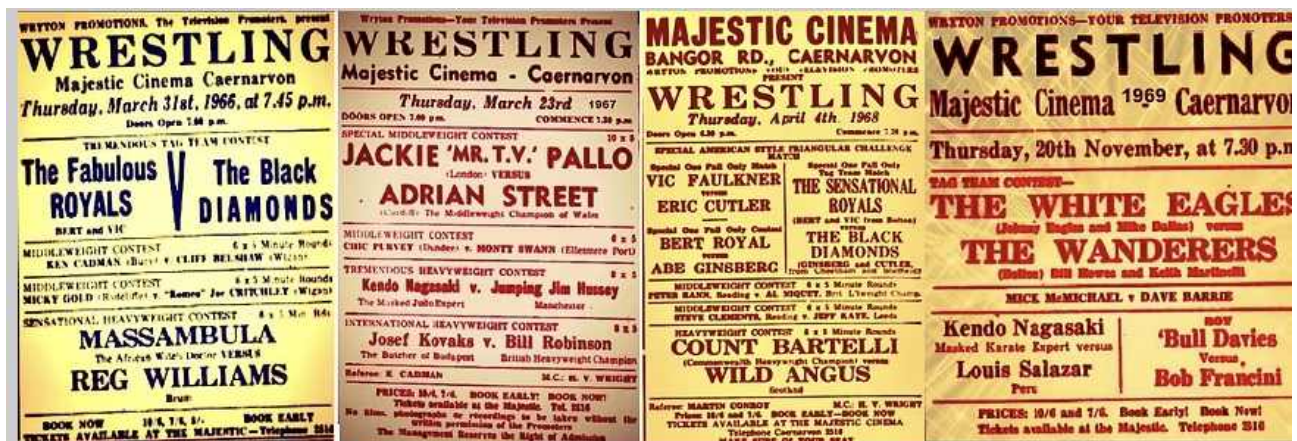
Jackie Pallo visiting in 64 and Peter Maivia, Gordienko and a very early sighting of Kendo with an imaginative spelling mistake.

<p>WRESTLING MAJESTIC CINEMA - Caernarvon Thursday, 7th May, 8 p.m. DOORS OPEN 7 p.m. 1964</p> <p>Terrific Heavyweight Contests</p> <p>"Dazzler" Joe CORNELIUS (Bermondsey), Great Personality V. JOSEF ZARANOFF (Russia), Europe's Greatest Heavyweight</p> <p>JACKIE (Mr. TV) PALLO (Highbury), the Great T.V. Personality, V. COLIN JOYNSON (Stockport), Very Fast!</p> <p>Mid-Heavyweight Bout JOHNNY CEEBLOW (Poland), Very Strong and Able VERSUS VIC STEWART (Salford), All Action Star!</p> <p>Catchweight Contest ALAN DENNISON (Dunholme) VERSUS TERRY DOWNS (Manchester)</p> <p>Prices: 10/-, 7/6, 5/- All Seats can be Booked in Advance BOOK EARLY AT THE MAJESTIC CINEMA Don't Miss This Great Attraction BOOK EARLY!</p>	<p>WRESTLING MAJESTIC, CAERNARVON Wednesday, November 18th Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Commence 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENT 10 x 5 Minute Rounds Welsh Traditional Ambassador for G.B. Mid-Heavyweight Title Reg Williams Tremendous favourite for championship honours. Fit and strong star</p> <p>VERSUS Tony Charles A leading contender acclaimed by press and fans—an outstanding wrestler • DON'T MISS THIS!</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST BOBBY STEELE v. AL BROWN (Salford)</p> <p>A TREMENDOUS ALL-ACTION INTERNATIONAL MATCH 10 x 5 Minute Rounds—SPECIAL CHALLENGE Geoff Portz v. Peter Maivia (Bradford) Britain's great representative at recent Hamburg tournaments in great form.</p> <p>International Heavyweight Bout • Terrific Top Attraction • The Great India Champion 8 x 5 Minute Rounds Kendo Nagasaki (Japan) First time in this area. Don't miss seeing this fabulous wrestler</p> <p>VERSUS Pedro Shiah Bengoshia (Spain) Mid-Heavyweight champion of Spain—Great Continental Star!</p> <p>Prices: 10/-, 7/6, 5/- BOOK NOW ALL SEATS BOOKED IN ADVANCE, MAJESTIC CINEMA ON AT 64, POOL STREET, CAERNARVON 1964</p>	<p>WRESTLING MAJESTIC, CAERNARVON Tuesday, October 27th, 1964 AT 7.30 p.m. Doors Open 6.45 p.m.</p> <p>MAIN EVENT COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHALLENGE GEORGES GORDIENKO (Canada), Challenging for world honours... one of the greatest ever in peak form: strong, fearless and all action—VERSUS JOHNNY DA SILVA (New Zealand), 6ft. 2in. 18 stone giant—Remember his memorable bout with Gwyn Davies here! He will give Gordienko a great bout—Don't miss this</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST Jack Dempsey v. Colin Joynson (Wigan) (Chesham)</p> <p>MID-HEAVYWEIGHT BOUT Henry Pierlot v. Vic Stewart (Anglo-French) (Broughton)</p> <p>LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT RETURN CHALLENGE CONTEST Hart disputed last decision at Caernarvon! JIM HART v. GERRY HOGAN (Wigan) (Blackpool)</p> <p>ALL SEATS CAN BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE PRICES: 10/-, 7/6, 5/- Book Now at the Majestic Don't Miss This</p>
---	---	---

In 65 Ricky Starr comes and works with a safe pair of hands in Jim Hussey. You can see as the decade moves on that The Royals were a cornerstone of Wryton, battling The Black Diamonds, Dennisons, Cadmans

<p>By the World's Largest Promoters—WRYTON PROMOTIONS WRESTLING MAJESTIC CINEMA - CAERNARVON Tuesday, April 27th COMMENCE 7.45 p.m. DOORS OPEN 7 p.m.</p> <p>BY PUBLIC REQUEST—RETURN VISIT OF RICKY STARR Boston, Mass. VERSUS JIM HUSSEY Manchester</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST JACK DEMPSEY v. AL BROWN Wigan Salford</p> <p>EXCELLENT 40 MINUTE TAG-TEAM BOUT Vic and Peter Stewart Salford VERSUS KEITH WILLIAMSON and Jim Hart Wigan</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST MASSAMBULA v. HANS STREIGER Ghana Hard ex-paratrooper</p> <p>SEAT PRICES: 15/-, 10/6, 7/6 Tickets Available at the Majestic 1965 Tel. 2516</p>	<p>WRYTON PROMOTIONS—The Television Promoters—present WRESTLING MAJESTIC, CAERNARVON Wednesday, January 13th 1965 Doors open 6.45 p.m. Commence 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>DON'T MISS THIS TREMENDOUS PRESENTATION OF STARR RETURN TAG-TEAM CHALLENGE BOUT BERT ROYAL and VIC FAULKNER Leading Tag-Team of country VERSUS ALF and KEN CADMAN Dury</p> <p>CHALLENGE CONTEST GWYN DAVIES v. IAN CAMPBELL Macclesfield Inverness</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST PETER STEWART (Salford) v. JOE CRITCHLEY (St. Helens)</p> <p>HEAVYWEIGHT MATCH TONY CHARLES (Heath) v. MONTY SWAN (Ebbw Vale)</p> <p>Ringside and Front Circle: 15/- & 10/- Other seats 7/6 & 5/- Book Early. Secure Your Favourite Seats. Book Now. Majestic Cinema (Tel. 2516), or at 64, Pool Street, Caernarvon</p>	<p>WRYTON PROMOTIONS, The Television Promoters, present WRESTLING Majestic Cinema, Caernarvon Wednesday, November 3rd, at 7.45 p.m. DOORS OPEN 7.30 P.M. 1965</p> <p>YOUR FAVOURITE TAG TEAM IN PEAK FORM "THE ROYALS" Bert Royal and Vic Faulkner (Bolton). Those fabulous all-action brothers—great favourites everywhere. VERSUS "THE DENNISOVS" Allan Dennison and Sid Cooper (Bradford) Rough and rugged Yorkshire pair. Impressive victories already.</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT BOUT JACK DEMPSEY (Wigan) versus AL BROWN (Salford) British L.W. Champion Grand Scrappier</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL L.H.W. MATCH MAJID ACCRA (India) versus MICKY GOLD (Radeiffe) Always a favourite A fine all action star</p> <p>HEAVYWEIGHT CHALLENGE CONTEST VIC STEWART (Salford) versus HANS STREIGER (Anglo-German) Star of North Wales</p> <p>10/-, 7/6 (bookable), 5/- at the door. Book Now. Book Early. Available at the Majestic Cinema (Tel. 2516) or at 64, Pool Street, Caernarvon</p>
--	---	--

Street and Pallo along with Kendo and Bill Robinson helped provide strong cards, the credibility being needed as time moved on and less overseas visitors to our shores.



These selections were not unlike what I myself saw at Belle Vue from here on in. It was good strong wrestling and a determined effort to have this venue through the sixties. How many of you saw Royal v Ginsberg and Vic v Cutler followed by a tag. It worked because of the quality, it told a story, no doubt with some scores settled in the tag match. I certainly saw it, probably at Belle Vue.

It was also done with the Hells Angels and probably the Dennisons.

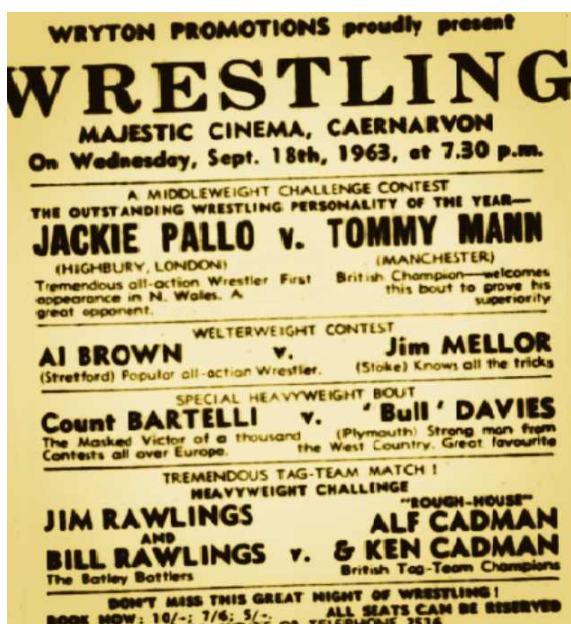
Typically Wryton at this time and a small challenge from myself. I know Wryton did a short stint in Hartlepool and even Norfolk. But I am talking of regular tenure for a sustained period.

Is this Wryton's furthest regular Outpost.

The Ost

Nice stuff Ron, I'm always keen to see Wryton content. They also ran Bangor.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop



The Ost makes a great observation about Bangor. Firstly, I think the very first show at Caernarfon was this one.

The popularity of wrestling on TV at this time was just too good an opportunity not to expand and make money while you can.

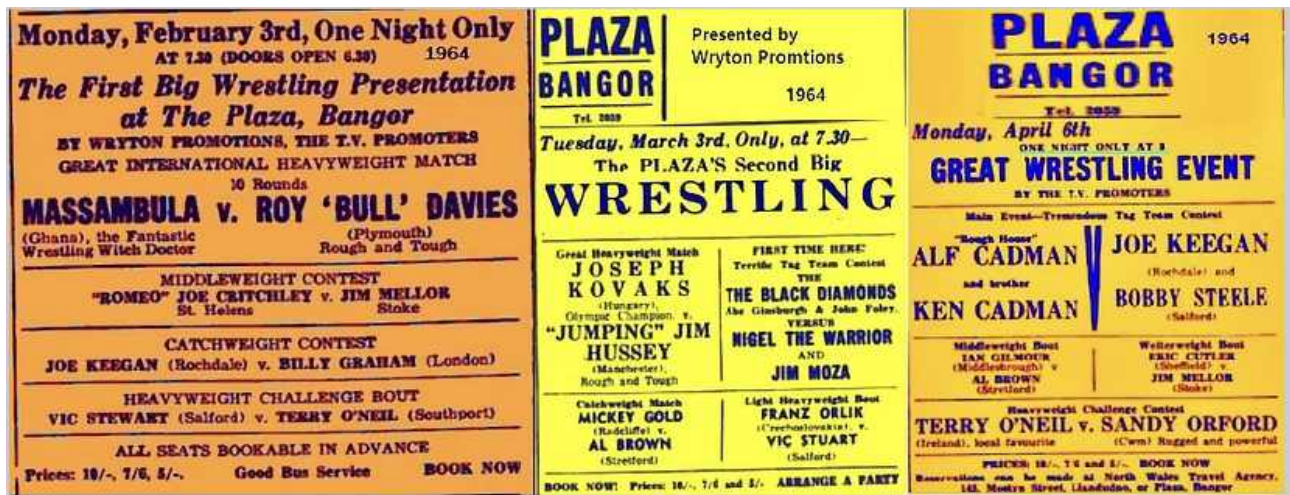
A choice of town removed from any real competition and an adventurous venture going round the corner from the North Wales Coast.

It worked and was sustained through the sixties.

With reference to Bangor the success of the Majestic Cinema blazed a trail and consequently, we could speculate was the reason and template for a try at Bangor.

Captured below is the very first show there in

February 1964. The Plaza Cinema was used with a capacity of just over 1000.



By the time it got to April after running shows early in the month as opposed to later at Caernarfon, the April show at Bangor says for one night only. Was this the end of the experiment. Caernarfon did a May show and for once early in the month, then Wryton had a summer break from what I can see.

Of course advertising could have gone in other papers or even ceased in the papers, but I don't have any more at Bangor. Was Bangor Sustained.

Of note, they don't seem to have thrown the Royal brothers at it or Billy Robinson, Joyce, Howes. You see an early Honey Boy as Nigel the Warrior and Eric Cutler while Ginsberg is with Foley in the Black Diamonds.

Over the years of the 60's Abergele was tried, and inland at Corwen, then near and convenient North Wales towns at Buckley and Connors Quay.

At 10 miles away, did Bangor prove to be too near Caernarfon or can anyone throw some more bills/results at Bangor

1978 Kid

Very interesting, thank you so much, Ron for doing the hard work of researching all this to give pleasure to the rest of us. What amazes me is the fact that it was worth all the long journeys to Caernarfon on dark winter's nights. The journey must have been even longer before the A55 coast road was improved. I can understand it during the summer when the nights were lighter and there would be tourists to fill the hall. Presumably the good people of Caernarfon turned out in big enough numbers to make the exercise financially profitable and to send Kendo and co home feeling their efforts had been rewarded!

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Yes 1978 Kid . your mention of the A55 brings back memories of going on holiday to Kinnel Bay from 1958-1964 every year for two weeks. Traffic crawling along even stopped. All those old cars, the Ford Consul 375 with a bench seat and column gear change, the old Ford Anglia and Vauxhall Victor and Cresta, the Zephyr series and the first mini's, Triumphs, Morris and so many old British brands and many people towed the smallest caravans you could now imagine, roof racks full and motor bike and side cars with families crammed.

To get some perspective, in the boom year of 1964 Caernarfon fitted in 9 monthly shows, leaving out June, July and August. The jewel in the Crown was Rhyl where wrestling jumped to weekly for the summer.

This leads to a question about the logistics. If the Gaiety Theatre at Rhyl had entertainment every day, do we assume that the ring was fixed, or was it used all over this North Wales Loop. Take the example below, using yet another Caernarfon bill mixed in with Rhyl and Colwyn Bay.

<p>GAIETY THEATRE, RHYL Manager: Leslie Spencer 1964 Telephone 1281</p> <p>WRESTLING Sunday, September 13th, at 7.45 p.m.</p> <p>TREMEUDOUS CONTEST JACKIE (Mr. TV) PALLO v PETER RANN (London) (Barnes)</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST JACK DEMPSEY v ALAN DENNISON</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST JERRY HOGAN v JOE KEEGAN</p> <p>GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST ARTHUR RICARDO v ACHMED the STRONG (Wigan) (Turkey)</p> <p>Referee: MARTIN CONROY M.C. BOY TURNER</p> <p>Prices: 10/6, 5/6, 7/6, 1/- Phone bookings must be claimed by 1 p.m. The Management Reserves the Right of Admission</p>	<p>IN AID OF BATTLE OF BRITAIN BENEVOLENT FUND The Royal Air Force Association (Colwyn Bay Branch) in conjunction with Wryton Promotions, present</p> <p>ALL-IN WRESTLING 1964 at the Pier Pavilion, Colwyn Bay Monday, 14th September, at 7.45</p> <p>Tony Charles v. ROUGH HOUSE Alf Cadman (Cardiff) (Bury)</p> <p>Pierre La Chappelle v. Count Bartelli (Italy) (The Masked Star)</p> <p>KEN CADMAN versus BOB STEELE (Bury) (Salford)</p> <p>TERRY DOWNES versus AL BROWN (Manchester) (Sunderland)</p> <p>Admission: 10/6, 7/6, 5/- Seats reserved at Information Bureau, Nation Sq., Colwyn Bay Telephone 5475</p> <p>LUCKY PROGRAMMES RAFFLES LUCKY BROCHURES</p>	<p>WRYTON PROMOTIONS—The Television Promoters—present</p> <p>WRESTLING MAJESTIC, CAERNARFON Tuesday, 15th September 1964 AT 1.30 p.m. Doors Open 6.45 p.m.</p> <p>TREMEUDOUS ATTRACTION FOR OPENING PROMOTION INTERNATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST GREAT RUSSIAN STAR IVAN JOSEPH ZARANOFF (Russia). Great Favourite Here! VERSUS HANS STREIGER (German-born ex-Parslooper—Rough and Ragged)</p> <p>LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST JOHNNY CEESLAW v. VIC STEWART (Cardiff) (Salford)</p> <p>CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST JACK DEMPSEY v. TERRY NYLANDS (Wigan) (Rochdale)</p> <p>A GREAT LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST 8 x 5 Min. Rds. TONY CHARLES v. ALF CADMAN (Bury) (Bury)</p> <p>ALL SEATS CAN BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE PRICES: 10/6, 7/6, 5/- Book Now at the Majestic Cinema Don't Miss This Great Promotion Book Early</p>
--	--	--

Wrestling was on again on 20th at Rhyl. We have Wryton lads on this site, how about it, How many were in the ring crew and was there only one for North Wales and even other areas (There was Wryton wrestling on at Chester on the 10th for example.) I don't have a single bill for Wrexham. What sort of van could take a ring.

And apologies for digressing from Caernarfon, but just to highlight the importance of the Ring Crew, look at this example below of things going wrong.

<p>WRESTLING ARCADIA THEATRE Telephone 76578 LLANDUDNO Telephone 76578</p> <p>Saturday, 21st November, at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>SPECIAL TAG TEAM MATCH THE SENSATIONAL BLACK DIAMONDS V THE CADMAN BROTHERS (ALF and KEN)</p> <p>LIGHTWEIGHT CONTEST 6 x 5 Minute Rounds Melvyn Riss v. Jeff Kaye (Wigan) (Leeds)</p> <p>MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST 6 x 5 Minute Rounds Micky Gold v. Colin Joynson (Radclyffe) (Cheetham)</p> <p>TREMEUDOUS HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST 8 x 5 Minute Rounds JOHN (MR. UNIVERSE) LEES (Stalybridge) VERSUS REG WILLIAMS (Screwbury)</p> <p>Referee: LEW ROSEBY M.C.: LES HARRISON</p> <p>PRICES: 10/6, 7/6, 5/- All Bookable Arcadia Box Office open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except Sunday) Telephone Bookings must be collected by 7 p.m. on Saturday, 21st November 1964</p>	<p>WRESTLING SHOW IS COUNTED OUT</p> <p>Eight hundred people were turned away from the Arcadia Theatre, Llandudno, on Saturday night, when a wrestling show was cancelled.</p> <p>The reason: A portable ring had failed to arrive from Manchester.</p> <p>The theatre manager, Mr Charles Aitken, said afterwards: "I rang the promoters and they told me the lorry bringing the ring had been in an accident. But I must say the public took it very well."</p>	<p>WRYTON PROMOTIONS LTD.</p> <p>The Directors and Management of Wryton Promotions Ltd. wish to tender their sincere apologies for the disappointment and inconvenience caused to their many intending patrons by the cancellation of the Wrestling presentation at the ARCADIA THEATRE, LLANDUDNO, on Saturday last, 21st November.</p> <p>This was due to circumstances entirely beyond their control.</p>
--	--	---

Can anyone help expand on this.

Peter

The fact that a Pro Wrestling event could not go ahead was newsworthy is another testament to its prominence in this era.

The Ost

The also ran the County Theatre in Bangor, would've been earlier I think maybe 1960. I've actually been to this part of the world, out to catch the ferry at Holyhead and back again some years ago.

Hack

When I saw you'd explored Caernarfon Ron I assumed they would be summer shows, but these are winter shows - in a town with a population still under 10,000 that incredible. Not that the low population means low quality - there are some gems here. George Kidd in a supporting role. I don't know if he was still living in London in 1963 or back in Dundee, but even from London that was quite a traipse. In fact it would be an awkward journey for anyone except those from south Lancashire or Cheshire.

In the 1963 bills the heavyweights ruled the roost, but by 1967 Pallo v Street Main Eventing with Kendo and Bill Robinson in support. But then further down Ron has Pallo v Mann headlining in September 1963, so forget that one. This was in the wake of the Pallo v McManus tv matches, which really were a milestone for the lighter men to break through.

Interesting to see Ron's comparison with Belle Vue. Yes, these were very strong bills. Outstanding research Ron.

j_shelvey

Great stuff as usual and expected, from Ron. Those were the great bills, my friend. We thought they'd never end.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Thanks Guys for a nice response, the icing on the cake, out of just pure interest, would be an insight as I mentioned about the job of the ring crew on this North Wales Loop. How many rings would Wryton have access to. Did one ring do the who coast.

Probably only Paul or Eddie could answer this, and maybe not regarding this period, it's a piece of research that there is no way of looking into, other than word of mouth.

Anglo Italian

So much to pore over there and Hack's right; a town of 10,000 commanding such winter bills. Did people travel from all around or did 10% of the residents turn up?

A strangely obvious comment is that of all the bills we see, those showing Ct Bartelli pre-1964 are quite rare.

We can see he wasn't even in the main support bout on one bill. Does this tell us that the entire north-west knew his routines by this time? We have always imagined he graciously allowed himself to be unmasked; but maybe the promoters thought he was past his sell-by date? Pushed rather than jumped?

Who is London's Billy Graham? There's a Mancunian in the A-Z, but a Londoner?

Peter

Probably the same wrestler just using London to give the bill more depth

Continue the discussion

<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/nooks-and-crannies-caernarfon>