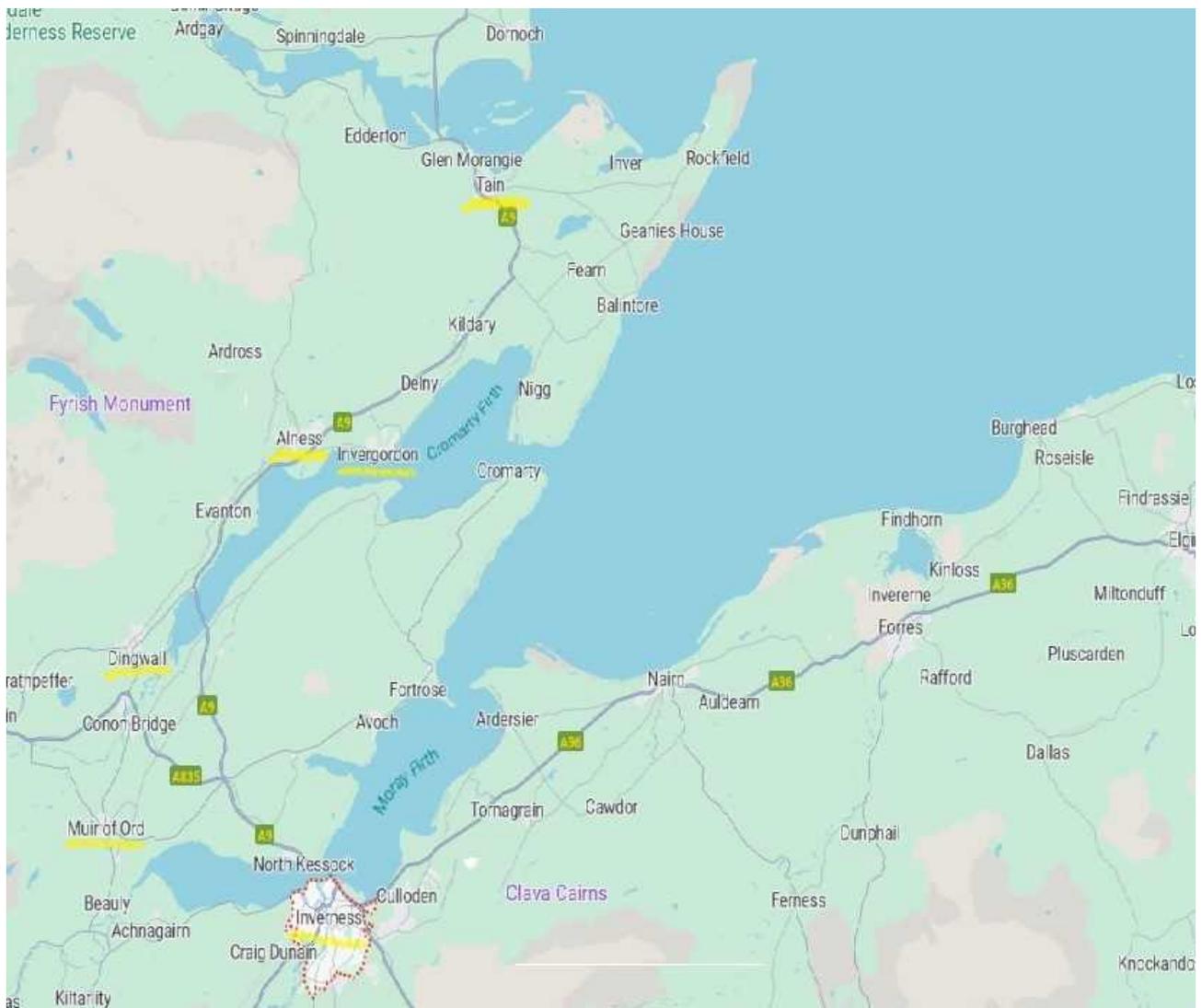


Ron Historyo goes where no man has been before

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

Ross-Shire

<https://wrestlingheritage.forumotion.com/t206-nooks-and-crannies-ross-shire>



GRAMPIAN PROMOTIONS 1963
WRESTLING
 Programming for
WEDNESDAY, 17th JULY
 In **TOWN HALL, DINGWALL**
10-ROUND LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
RANDOLPH TURPIN
 Ex-middleweight boxing champion of the world. Making a great name for himself in the wrestling world.
VERSUS
GORILLA REG RAY
 ONE of America's toughest mat men says he will make mincemeat of TURPIN
8-ROUND LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
JACK BEAUMONT
 British and Empire light heavyweight champion
VERSUS
MARTIN BOBSON
 Scotland's leading contender for the title
8-ROUND LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
SYD MACMANUS
 T.V.'s bad-man of the ring, knows all the wrong moves and how to do them. Recently on Gramplan Television.
VERSUS
SEAN O'SHEA
 Former world-rated top ranking boxer, a two rated all action fighter.
 Don't miss this clash between Two of the Rings Hottest and Toughest
10-ROUND WELTERWEIGHT CONTEST
GENTLEMAN JIM LEWIS
 Welterweight champion of the world, the MAN POLLO refuses to meet.
VERSUS
DAVE MAHONEY
 Europe's leading contender for the title.
 For wrestling at its best don't miss this bout between two of the wrestling world's most scientific men.
 Limited amount of tickets so book now.
SEATS at 15/6, 10/6, 8/6 and 6/6
 Also a few Ring-side Seats at £1 is.
 Booking at **J. M. Fraser, Hairdresser, Granville Place, Dingwall.**

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Having looked at Inverness where Joint promotions had decided that it was worth a shot, I now go a little further North. Today you could travel along a lot of coast to the tip of Scotland along the A9, but in the 1960's there were no bridges to get across the Moray Firth, Cromarty Firth and The Dornoch Firth.

The big question, " Was it worth going further than Inverness?"

As you get to Dingwall you are now in Ross-Shire which today is joined with Cromarty. The first bill I come across is 1963.

The Town Hall, if you put a ring in it could probably get 350 people in. I think two hundred plus was what was achieved in reality.

1965 North West Promotions had a go. Jefferson, probably one of the most tricky promoters to advertise a fair bill with genuine known wrestlers. He was always up to something. He got the girls up there very early on. I wonder what Johnny Saint thought of it all.

It looks like they must have done at least break even.

TOWN HALL, DINGWALL
WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL, 1965
INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING
 Doors Open 7 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.
 Featuring Top Mat Stars from England and the Continent
 Promoted by North Western Promotions Ltd, members of the British Wrestling Federation.
International Tag Match, 60 min. duration, Scotland v Hungary
JOSEPH SZARBO (Hungary) Light Heavyweight Champion of Europe
SANDOR ROZSA (Hungary) Heavyweight Champion of Hungary
IAN ST. JOHN (Inverness) Former Scottish Open Champion
COLIN MACDONALD (Dunfermline) The second George Kidd
1 ROUND HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
BILLY RED CLOUD (The Wrestling Bookies, the master of the Tombacch club)
DOUGLAS CLARK (Former Scottish Heavyweight Champion)
1 ROUND LIGHTWEIGHT CONTEST
PEPI LA PAQUE (France)
TREVOR REECE (Former Scottish Lightweight Champion of Wales)
1 ROUND LADIES' CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST
 Introducing the Television Stars as featured on Television
MITZI MULLER
 The Breeze Bombshell of the Ring, trained by the former American Ladies' Champion, Sam Rogers
NANCY BARTON
 Britain's First Lady Wrestler just returned from a successful tour of the Continent
 All catchweights and officials, licensed by the British Wrestling Federation.
POPULAR PRICES
 Advance Bookings at **SOOTER & REID, 55 HIGH STREET, DINGWALL, Tel. 222.**
ADVANCE BOOKING AT DOOR ON NIGHT OF SHOW.
ENSURE YOUR SEAT—BOOK NOW

TOWN HALL, DINGWALL—FRIDAY, 2nd JULY, 1965
 At 8 p.m. Doors Open 7 p.m.
NORTH WESTERN PROMOTIONS Present
FREE STYLE WRESTLING
 ANOTHER SENSATIONAL ATTRACTION
International Tag Match - Four Men in Action at once - 60 Min. Duration
The Undefeated Indian Tag Team The World Famous Masked Tag Team
THUNDERBIRD and THE HANGSMAN
and CHIEF BLACK EAGLE V THE EXECUTIONER
 Can the Notorious Masked Team succeed where all others have failed?
2 Round Middleweight Contest
JOHNNY SAINT (Manchester) The 25-year-old Teenage Idol
2 Round Lightweight Contest
ANDREAS SVAJICK (Inverness) The European Lightweight Champion and Former Olympic Gold Medalist
DYNAMITE DAVE NEWMAN (Wigan) The Famous Dynamite Wrestling Champion. If he can hold Svajick will qualify to meet him for Championship Belt.
All Action Star
16 Round specially featured Heavyweight Contest
SCOT DUNCAN CAMPBELL
 8 ft. 7 ins. He alone has won Scottish Giant from the famous Campbell Wrestling family. The youngest and most brilliant—recently returned from Australia.
FANCHO "SPEEDY" GONZALES
 The Fabulous Mexican Star. You have read about this wonderful character in "Wrestling World" now see him in action. First time in Britain.
POPULAR PRICES
 Booking - **SOOTER and REID, 55 High Street, Dingwall** Ensure Your Seat—BOOK EARLY.

ALL-STAR FREE-STYLE WRESTLING
TOWN HALL, DINGWALL—FRIDAY, 21st MAY, 1965
 Doors Open 7 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.
NORTH WESTERN PROMOTIONS LTD. (MEMBERS OF BRITISH WRESTLING FEDERATION) PROUDLY PRESENT ANOTHER ALL-STAR BILL
SENSATIONAL 16-ROUND HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
 Direct from Madison Square Gardens
KLONDYKE BILL
 46 stone. Heaviest man in European rings. First time ever in Britain. Discovered in the Klondyke by Lou Ties, Heavyweight Champion of the World.
v.
MAX CHURCHILL
 (London). One of Europe's Top Heavyweights.
 Don't miss this—**Over 40 STONE in the Ring at once.**
8-ROUND LIGHTHEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
Sheik Ali Ben Yousef (Lebanon) versus
Jack McReadie (Edinburgh). Back in Scotland after successful tour of Europe.
8-ROUND MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT
Steve Knowles (Middleborough) versus
Ray Charles (London)
8-ROUND LIGHTHEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
Zulu (The Wrestling Witchdoctor) versus
Sid Logan (The Badman of the Mat).
POPULAR PRICES
 Advance Bookings at **SOOTER & REID, 55 High Street, Dingwall, Tel. 222.**
 or pay at door on night of show—Ensure your seat for this Spectacular.

1966 saw Continental Matchmakers of Manchester having a go. There is a bit of experience in there, Saint still working for the opposition and early Wild Angus, what a great career he had. I am not entirely sure who was behind this company.

CONTINENTAL MATCH-MAKERS Present
BIG TIME
WRESTLING
TOWN HALL ——— DINGWALL
TUESDAY, 26th APRIL, 1966, at 8 p.m.
 Doors open 7 p.m.

T.V. STARS **T.V. STARS**

10 Round International Heavyweight Contest
BRONCO JACK CASSIDY v. DUNCAN McROBERT
 T.V.'s Wrestling Cowboy. Tremendously Colourful Character. The Brilliant Scottish Heavyweight. Recently returned after a four-year stay in the U.S.A.

8 Round Middleweight Bout
STEVE CANNON (London) **JOHN ALLAN** (Belfast)
 v.
DAVE NEWMAN (Wigan) **MIKE JEFFRIES** (Sheffield)

10 Round Specially Contracted Return Challenge Contest
THE OUTLAW v. WILD ANGUS CAMPBELL
 T.V.'s Masked Star The Huge Bearded Highlander vows he will make no mistake this time.

This Return Contest has been fixed on the Outlaw by the Wrestling Federation of Great Britain following disputed decisions during their last fight at this Hall.

POPULAR PRICES:
 ADVANCE BOOKING—Souter and Reid, Newsagents, High St., Dingwall. Tel. 228.
 Ensure your seat for this spectacular—BOOK EARLY.

A "STARS OF TELEVISION" TOURNAMENT
 presented by Continental Match Makers, Manchester, Ltd.
BIG - TIME
WRESTLING
 In the TOWN HALL, DINGWALL
 On WEDNESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1966
 at 8 p.m. ——— Doors Open 7 p.m.

SENSATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHALLENGE CONTEST
THE OUTLAW v. ANGUS CAMPBELL
 The Masked American, in Britain.. The 6ft. 10. Scottish Bearded Giant with 4100 challenge to anyone who vows to defeat and unmask the American.

4-ROUND MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT **4-ROUND CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST**
GORDON CORBETT (Birmingham) versus **JOHNNY SAINT** (Manchester) versus
CHEROKEE JACK MARTINEZ (Canada). **JUMPING JIM MOSER** (West Indies).

4-ROUND LADIES' CONTEST
ANNITA CORTEZ v. **DIANE RODRIGUES**
 The Fabulous Blonde from Boston, U.S.A. Anglo-Spanish Hellcat.

Popular Prices.
 Advance bookings at Souter and Reid, Newsagent, 55 High St., Dingwall. Tel.: 2290.

WRESTLING
CURLING POND, MUIR OF ORD
SATURDAY, 31st JULY, commencing 8 p.m.
T.V. STARS
THE INFAMOUS, SENSATIONAL MASKED MAN
THE RED DEVIL
 Ruthless, cunning — will stop at nothing to gain a victory, versus
TERRY NYLANDS
 England, the popular Television Drop-kick star.

SPECIAL CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST
STOKER MORRIS v. **BILL ROSS**
 England Scotland

WILD FRANK O'DONNELL v. **DON MITCHELL**
 Ireland's Golden Ace Bradford
 14 Stone of Dynamite Yorkshire's Golden Boy

SENSATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST
"GORILLA" RAE v. **JACK FALLON**
 Wakefield Wigan
 Barrel-Chested Hercules Mighty ex-Collier, strong as a bull.

PRICES — 10/-, 8/-, 6/-.
 Advance bookings at D. and B. Lyall, General Grocers, Muir of Ord.

A little nearer Inverness I found a lone bill, unique in it's own way in The Muir of Ord. I presume in the middle of summer the Curling frozen outdoor rink or arena would not be in use. Is this even a New Type of Venue for that thread.

A strange mixture of wrestlers and hard to say who was behind it. Why there???

SaxonWolf

That 1963 bill is great! "Syd" MacManus, the "TV bad man of the ring", I assume this was Mick? Gorilla Reg Ray from the USA!

Mad Mac

As you mention TV, another factor in all this is that ITV was very much in its infancy in that part of the world having only come on air there about 18 months previously. This would have been somewhat of a curiosity to the locals, many of whom wouldn't have known Syd McManus from the real thing!

Mad Mac

Excellent point, well made

Anglo Italian

I feel sure it's just a complete lie. Mick wouldn't go all the way up there for the opposition - and certainly not down the bill!

Which makes you wonder how he got away with it and what sort of anger was created by this. Mind you, Syd was probably a no-show in any case - more reason to hate the absent Southerner.

You seem to find an earlier start for Mitzi every week, Ron. Must have been nearly a schoolgirl in 1965....

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

O'Shea tried it in Ireland without any variation of the name at all, and was threatened with legal action by Dale Martins. Might have been a couple of years later. I don't think he was as honourable as Cape Promotions for example.

Later I think we can produce a bit of inside information on some other towns/shows up that way.

The Curling pond is a fascinating twist for a venue, I had never heard of the Muir of Ord.

Anglo Italian

Dale Martin, perhaps.

But the punters. If it's just the name, that's one thing. But Star of TV? Some of the spectators will have been livid - which is why I suspect the no-show as an out.

Certainly a new one for types of venue!!!

Mad Mac

Muir of Ord is a village between Inverness and Dingwall: current population is about 3000. Little in the way of public transport (particularly on a Saturday evening) or car ownership at that time, so I can only surmise that either Dingwall wasn't available or it was booked without someone having done their homework?

SaxonWolf

What year was the Muir of Ord event, Ron? I am guessing 1965?

It's a Saturday night in the middle of Summer, a prime night for making money by wrestling at a big venue, anywhere in the UK, so why would these lads travel up there? It's a seven hour drive from Wakefield, for Reg Ray, using today's road system.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Yes 1965, not like me to not sneak the date on. If you pull up a picture of the Curling Ponds there does not look to be any seating.

It's a very strange venue. I also wonder if it was part of a small tour, maybe a couple of social clubs thrown in. I can't find any bills that would fit a tour to, but social clubs are very small venues.

Anglo is so right about the treatment of the fans. Incredibly short sighted and bad for the industry.

Mad Mac

Mr. Historyo gets a half point deducted: it's Ross-Shire, hence Dingwall-based Ross County F.C. Notwithstanding that, were some of these possibly a "testing of the waters" to see if it was viable to run in the Far North?

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Corrected thanks MM,

It caught on in Inverness so maybe it was worth a punt a bit further north.

I am going to cover as far as Tain which is about 35 miles from Inverness.

Wrestling almost everywhere in this era really amazes me.

As we go 1965 to 1966, I wonder how different North West Promotions were versus Continental Matchmakers.

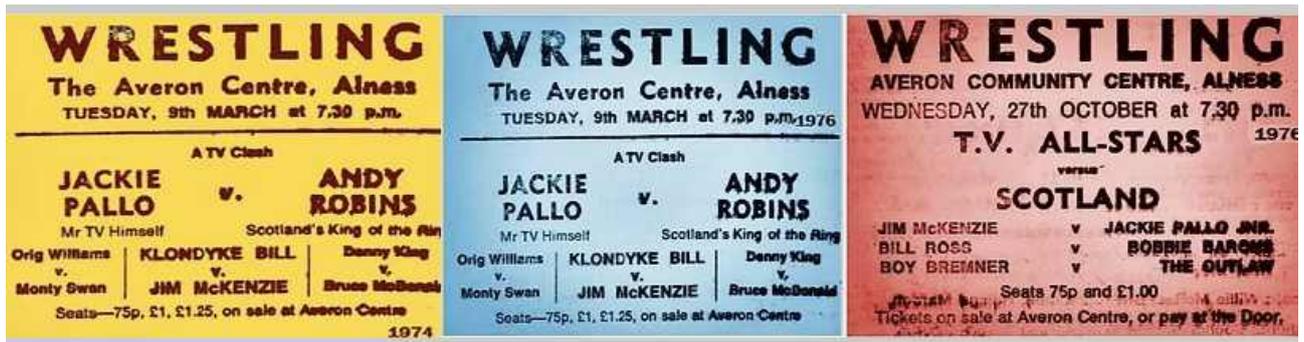
Both Manchester based, was it just a re-brand?

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

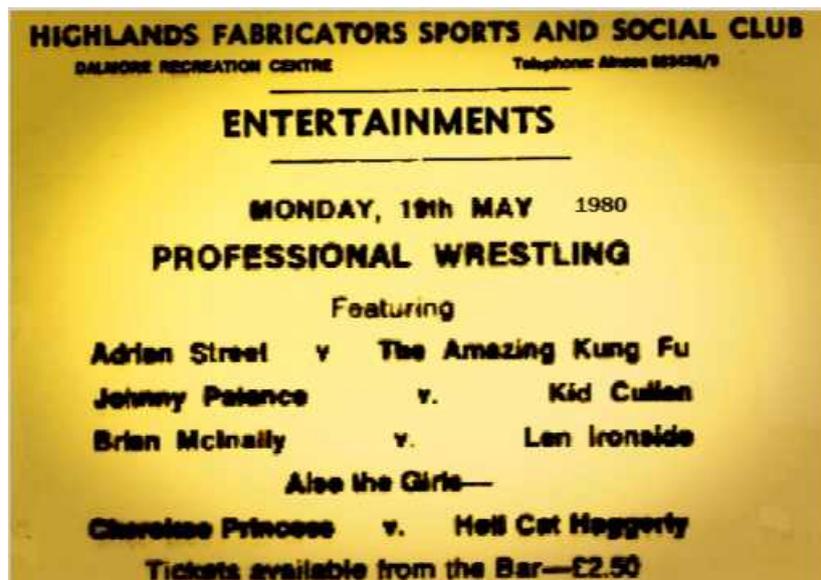
I think the boom for wrestling was now over and for 1969 I can show you a scandalous bill at Dingwall with some really dishonest advertising. This one beats the biscuit.

Invergordon was on the far side of the Cromarty Firth about 25 miles from Inverness. A total mystery why in 1970, Joint Promotions would put on a bout in the Distillery Social Club. With a gate of under 200, how could they pay 8 wrestlers and a ring crew etc.

Well just maybe they got some free drinks to take home. Anyone got any better ideas. Also worthy of note, the minimum price of ten shillings in the social club in 1970 was equal to the luxury price at Belle Vue in the same year. So ringside in effect was double price



Dalmore, another Social Club, also part of AIness



Hack

We came across Continental Matchmakers in Dalkeith and this is what I wrote then:

"I found Continental Matchmakers promoting all over the Britain and Ireland ... Barnoldswick, Bodmin, Chester, Coventry, Derry, Downham Market, Dublin, Dunfermline, Frodsham, Galway, Inverness, Maesteg, Matlock, Nantwich, Stonehaven, Wilmslow,"

Many of the bills are very similar to the ones in Dalkeith, regulars Williams, O'Shea, Saint, Flynn, St John, Swasjics, Klondyke....

Then I found the address of Continental Matchmakers. 29 Talbot Road is a six bedroom terraced house in Fallowfield. Made me think it could be Sean O'Shea. I couldn't find who was living at that address in 1966, can you Ron? I would put half a crown on it being a Shaun O'Shea

Then I came across a report from the Irish Times, 26th October, 1965. The report stated that Continental Matchmakers of Manchester were planning to sue Cork Council because they had banned a ladies match. The spokesman for Continental Matchmakers was Orig

Williams. Now I'm not aware of Orig living in Manchester. So possibly an O'Shea/Williams collaboration, or an O'Shea business with Orig working for him.

Peter

On what basis could Cork Council be sued? Probably bluster that came to nothing

j_shelvey

Who was Syd McManus, a name we've discussed before? And I'm thinking Dave was actually Mike Mahoney?

Anglo Italian

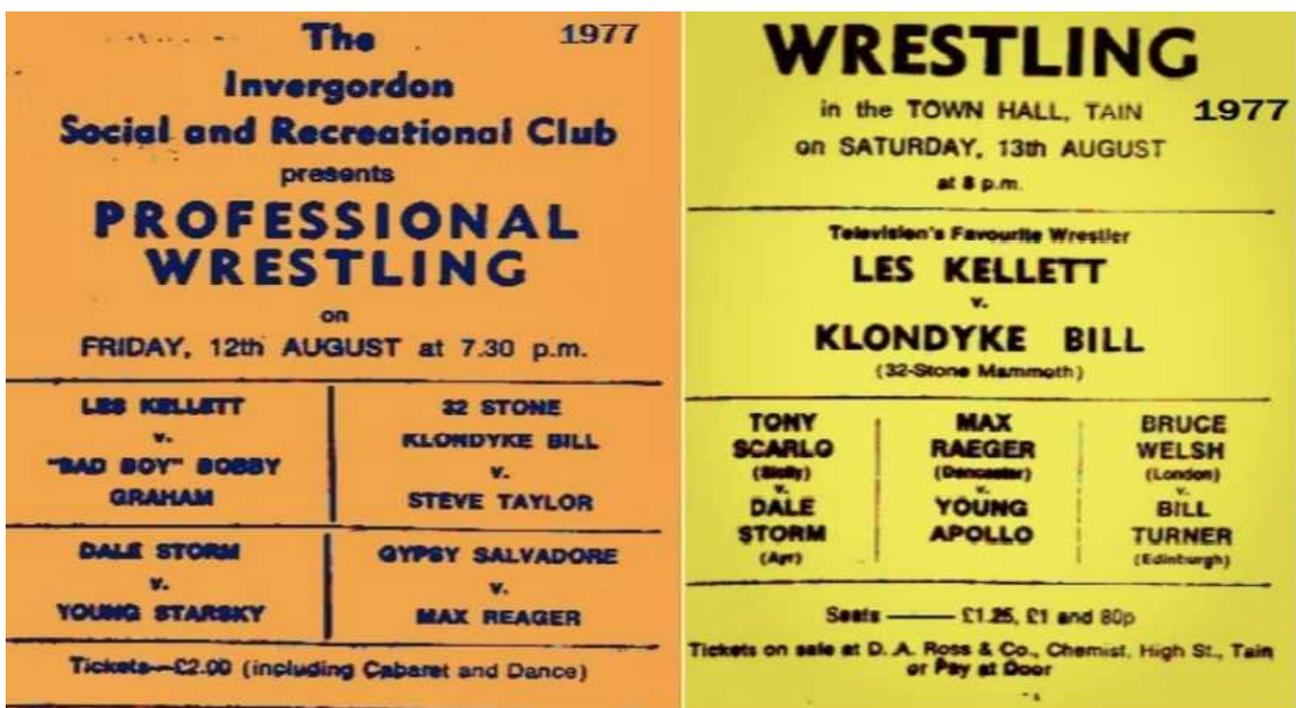
There's a Sid Logan, too. Another who was then probably a no-show as an "unreliable Londoner." Sid was probably code for "Sorry, InDisposed."

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

There is an uncertainty about how well all these bills were put together, copying names, making up names, there was no limit. I also cannot confirm exactly where O'Shea lived and what became of him.

A little bit special are two bills in 1977 two nights running in Invergordon and Tain. Four of the wrestlers work both nights and for sure stop over somewhere. Kellett being one of them and Klondyke Bill. But 230 miles from Ayr is Dale Storm. Could Dale tell us more?

Michael Portillo did a series of Great Coastal Railway Journeys and Series 1 Episode 8 was Invergordon to Tain. Who was behind the Promotion of these bouts.



Well some inside info here from Andy (Dale Storm) as Hack sent these bills to him.

These two bills were part of a full weeks work for Orig Williams. Other venues were at Elgin, probably Aviemore and The Corn Exchange in Edinburgh.

What took place was rather different to the bills advertised. It seems that Tony Scarlo was not there. Young Starsky was probably Young Apollo, Gypsy Salvadore probably Manchester's Mickey Gold. Dale was probably on with Steve Taylor and Max Reager with Starsky.

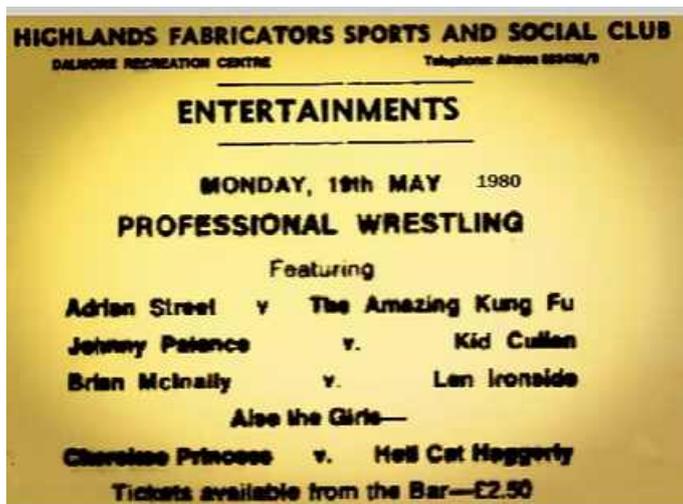
Dale also does not recall Bobby Graham and Bruce Welsh either nor Bill Turner Kellett was there and Orig himself would have turned out. All very fluid.

With Orig, very likely, a ladies bout would have filled it up a bit, with probably Rusty Blair and Cherokee Princess (Gloria Payne) best guess.

The Tain show was organised by Orig whilst the Invergordon show was a Bill Money job paid for by the Club committee. This show was at the Aluminium Smelter Place that has gone now.

RON HISTORYO...Time Cop

Yes, a fabulous contribution from Mad Mac, I too had forgotten those early days of ITV and the later introduction in the Grampian area. The area north of Inverness has a population under a quarter of a million even today. Here in the North West I remember getting a frequency booster box to receive ITV in the late 1950's. Not everybody bothered for a long time. Such small screens too in those days of Black and white.



Dalmore is part of Alness and another social club.

I finish by going back to Dingwall, much later now. Familiar names from the past but no longer Joint men, mixed in with the girls. A lot of inflation on those bills from 1977 into the eighties.

British legion as well as the town hall.

To think that by the end of 1981 wrestling was finishing at the Kings Hall Belle Vue, and no venue found to replace it, and yet here we have wrestling at Dingwall Town Hall in 1983.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (SCOTLAND)
Dingwall Branch Club

Top Class Wrestling

In THE ROSS HALL, DINGWALL,
on WEDNESDAY, 10th JUNE, at 8 p.m. 1981

Admission—£2.50.

JACKIE (Mr T.V.) PALLO v. BELFAST BRUISER
STEVE LOGAN v. MIKE BENNETT
CATWEAZLE v. MAURICE
BIG MOMMA HAGGERTY v. PAULA VALDEZ

Members and Guests only.

WRESTLING 1983

TOWN HALL, DINGWALL—THURSDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, at 7.45 p.m.

A STARS OF T. V. TOURNAMENT
ROLLERBALL ROCCO v. **TONY ST. CLAIR**
T.V.'s Mean Machine—Terrific T.V.'s Blond Superstar

El Bandito v. **Jamaica Kid**
Force Ten from Mexico TV's Black Adonis

* ACTION ASSURED * SEE YOUR T.V. STARS LIVE *

GIRLS * GIRLS * GIRLS * GIRLS Cheyenne Princess Beautiful But Deadly Versus Klondyke Kate Dynamic Blonde Bombshell	CARL JASON Fast and Clever Versus BOSS WHITE Lancashire Lion	* THRILLS * * ACTION * * EXCITEMENT * It's All Here!
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Tickets: Adults £2.50; Children £1.50, on sale at Donat's Cafe, High Street, or pay at the door

WRESTLING

1977 TOWN HALL, DINGWALL
FRIDAY, 28th JANUARY, at 7.30 p.m.

ANDY ROBINS versus **KING KENDO**
Scotland's King of the Ring World's No. 1 Masked Star

FOUR-MAN KNOCK-OUT TOURNAMENT
THE MASKED EXECUTIONER **BILL ROSS**
THE MASKED FALCON **STEVE TAYLOR**
Looser to Unmask in the Ring

Seats — £1.00 and £1.20 at the door

Wrestling Federation guarantee the appearance of all Wrestlers

WRESTLING

THE TOWN HALL, DINGWALL
THURSDAY, 25th OCTOBER at 8 p.m. 1979

The One and only LES KELLETT Television's Greatest Ever v. THE MIGHTY CHANG Star of James Bond Films	International Tag Match T.V. ALL STARS v. SCOTLAND
GIRLS * GIRLS * RUSTY BLAIR Ladies' World Champion v. TINA STARR Teenage Wonder Girl	GIRLS * GIRLS CARLA SANCHEZ Spanish Sensation v. MISS LENA Swedish Sex Symbol

SEATS—£1.50; CHILDREN £1.20
Tickets on sale at DONATI & CO., HIGH STREET, DINGWALL, or AT THE DOOR

For me, a fascinating journey to look at all this. Sadly I have never been up in the Highlands.

Enchanting to look on the map at the geography of all those Firths and the Culture away from highly populated area's. No stone was left unturned, wrestling got everywhere.

Peter

It would be interesting to know if Reg Ray made mincemeat of Randolph Turpin!

Anglo Italian

Over the years, the English wrestlers have liked to experiment with trickery in far flung Scotland. Kellett enjoyed moonlighting there and even the great Alan Garfield decamped north of the border when past his sell by date.

So what I also note irresistibly in these bills is the cocktail of Al Miquet, Kung Fu, Kamikaze and Ian Gilmour. We have discussed for years how they took it in turns to be under the bonnet; some of these bills just ooze doubling up. They were trying things out; seeing what

they could later get away with in front of more knowing audiences further South (ie everywhere else).

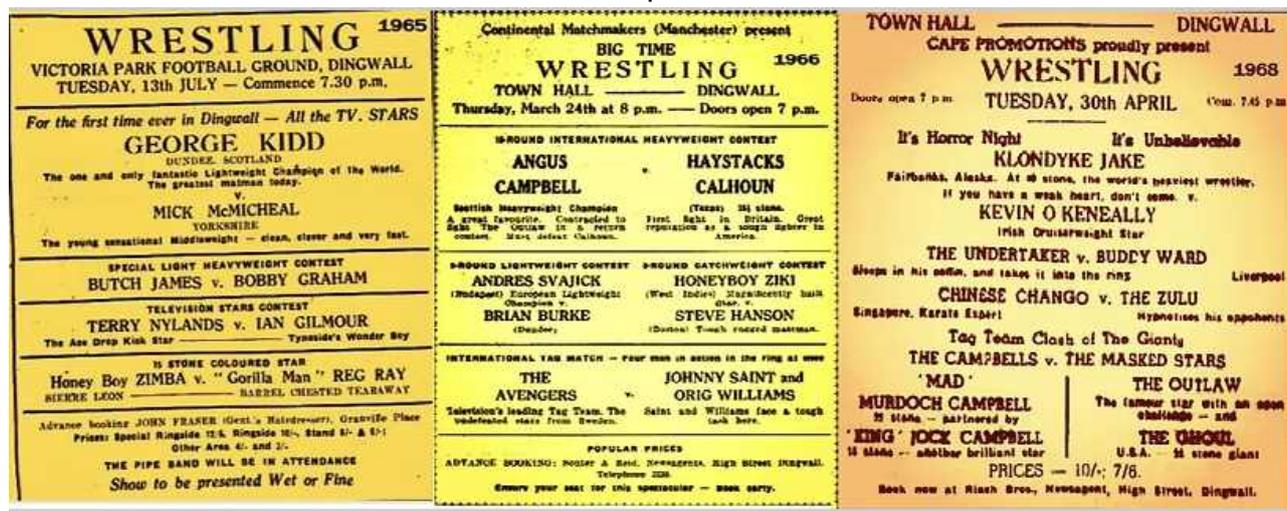
Hack

I imagine you're right Peter. Nothing in the article to back up the statement.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Some more here from Dingwall..In 1965, was this some sort of a Joint Promotions effort at a big outdoor stadium or has someone managed to borrow some Joint Stars. It's a big stadium too, a capacity bigger than the town itself.

1966 Continental Matchmakers and 1968 Cape Promotions.. back at the Town Hall.



Continue the discussion

<https://wrestlingheritage.forumotion.com/t206-nooks-and-crannies-ross-shire>