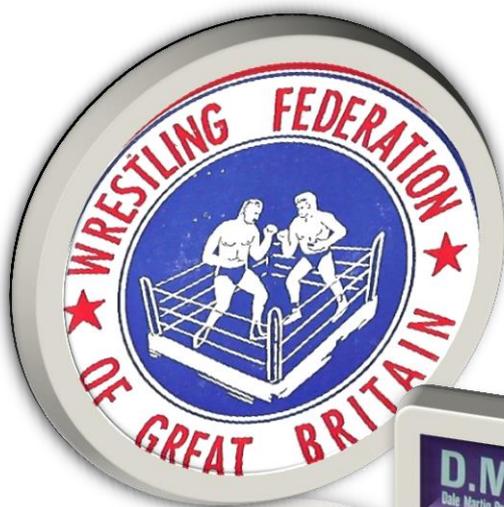


GOLDEN DAYS FOR FENLAND

ROUND 3

(The Indies – plus one or two others - In East Anglia during the late 60s)



8) The Story So Far

We've had a look at the way International Promotions served March and Kings Lynn and other halls with Indy presentations in the late sixties, and how Trans World

Promotions stepped in to some of the smaller halls, notably Downham Market with their wrestling roster. We turn today to Starr Promotions, run by Bill Clark (L), a journeyman wrestler from Boston who decided to be his own boss (before deciding to be King Kendo!). He had limited success in Wisbech, which was dealt with in the Wisbech Chronicles. Then he turned his sights on other Fenland venues, concentrating on Holbeach in Lincolnshire and Whittlesey, near Peterborough, where fans had been somewhat starved of grappling over the years.



9) Big Bill On The Road

Starr Promotions based itself in Lincolnshire, and as Bill honed his promotional skills at Wisbech he also turned to his home county to serve up his Indy nights of mayhem.

One of his most successful venues was the WI Hall in Holbeach (R). This was a Tardis-like hall which lent itself very well to the wrestling.

Just about large enough to create the right ambience and small enough to deliver a packed hall each time and ensure the atmosphere added to the entertainment.

The local paper was part of the same group as the paper I worked for, so I was able to supply them with tit-bits, previews and reports and give Bill some much-needed publicity every now and again. I tried not to over-egg with praise ... but sometimes failed!



WRESTLING
W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
 Doors open 7 p.m. SATURDAY, 23th SEPT. Commence 8 p.m.

Heavyweight Contest 10x5 GIANT JUMBO 28 stone giant v. VINCE APOLLO Nottingham	Heavyweight Contest 8x5 PROFESSOR v. BILL CLARK Boston.
Lightweight Contest 6x5 PAUL RUDEAN Lincoln v. MICK COLLINS Belfast	Heavyweight Contest 8x5 LENO LARAZZI Italy v. THE PLOUGHBOY Suffolk.

PRICES 10/- 7/6 5/-
 Book with confidence at:-
 PHILLIPS, Newsagents, 1 Boston Road, Holbeach.
 Tel. No. Holbeach 2370.

For the first show in 1968 he chose, as you can see (L), a safe, reliable and familiar lineup in order to start stirring the pot gently.

Bill put himself on the bill (a la Jack Taylor) to face the masked Professor, which would establish Bill as the local good guy. Jumbo and Apollo knew what was expected of them in this opener.

I went along for Bill and gave it a glowing, if not over-glowing report (below) for the paper. It really had been a good night ...

Full house for top class wrestling at Holbeach

A CAPACITY crowd at Holbeach W.I. Hall on Saturday, was treated to one of the finest wrestling tournaments ever seen in the south of England.

Popular Italian wrestler, Leno Larazzi, was given a rough time by Suffolk's fighting farmer, Trevor McDonald, before finally managing to snatch the winning fall, much to the pleasure of the spectators.

Larazzi will now go on to challenge for the European mid-heavyweight title, held by Eric Taylor, at Wisbech Corn Exchange, on Monday.

Masked heavyweight "The Professor", soon angered the crowd with his foul tactics,

but they paid off, for he gained the first fall.

However, his opponent, Bill Clarke, of Boston, was more than capable of dealing with the situation, and when the mystery man had to resort to more rule breaking, he was promptly disqualified by the referee.

A DRAW

Anglo-Italian Rog Ladaire, who substituted for Mick Collins, and Lincoln's Paul Rudean fought an exciting six-round draw, each fighter obtaining one fall each.

The main event of the evening was a heavyweight clash between Vince Apollo,

of Nottingham, and the 28-stone American man-mountain, Giant Jumbo.

After conceding a fall, the enraged Jumbo hurled his opponent from the ring, and Apollo failed to beat the count.

Pierce arguments between the referee, Jumbo and spectators then followed, before the Goliath of wrestling finally left the ring and returned to the dressing room.

For the next tournament at Holbeach, Starr Promotions, of Spalding, hope to bring the "Outlaw", the famous American who is the only masked wrestler ever to wrestle on television.

WRESTLING
W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
 Doors open 7 p.m. SATURDAY, 26th OCT. Commence 8 p.m.

Heavyweight Contest 8x5 ROUGH-HOUSE HARRY BENNETT Sheffield v. RIC CHARLES Yarmouth	Middleweight Contest 8x5 BUTCHER GOODMAN Barnsley v. JOHN RYDE Belper.
Middleweight Contest 8x5 STOKER BROOKS Royal Navy v. PEDRO THE GIPSY	Lightweight Contest 6x5 YOUNG RICARDO v. RALPH WARD

PRICES 10/- 7/6 5/-
 Booking: —
 PHILLIPS (Newsagent), 1 Boston Road, Holbeach.
 Tel. Holbeach 2370

As things turned out Bill couldn't book the Outlaw for the next show, but the speculative publicity did no harm. The ever-unpopular Harry Bennett was brought in for show two (L), and the Outlaw booked for show three. Alas, the masked man was a no-show, but Bill, in true Jack Taylor fashion, handed the fans a heavyweight tag match replacement which involved both Bill and Harry

Bennett. It went down

a storm. Bill had got the measure of the Holbeach fans ...

BIG TIME WRESTLING
 at the
W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
 Doors open 7 p.m. SATURDAY DEC. 14th Commence 8 p.m.

Sensational Heavyweight Contest 10x5 OUTLAW Undefeated Masked Sensation v. MITCHELL Bradford	Lightweight Contest 8x5 ERIC SANDS Bradford v. CLIFF MILLA Danish Lightweight Champion
Welterweight Contest 6x5 MICK COLLINS Belfast v. MICK LA ROCHE Canada	Heavyweight Challenge 8x5 HARRY BENNETT Sheffield v. BILL CLARK Boston

PRICES 10/- 7/6 5/-
 Booking: —
 Phillips, Newsagents, 1, Boston Road, Holbeach. Tel. 2370. LG10-121

Tag teams entertain Elloe fans

A SURPRISE gigantic heavyweight tag-team match proved to be the highlight of Saturday's wrestling at the W.I. Hall, Holbeach.

When neither participant for the fourth bout had arrived, Starr Promotions decided that in order to compensate the packed crowd, they would run at a loss and bring back four heavyweights who had already appeared on the bill.

Local star, Bill Clarke, and Bradford's Don Mitchell faced "Licker" Harry Bennett and British champion Jim Armstrong in an action-packed tag match that left little to be desired.

Clarke gained the first submission over Armstrong, who frequently resorted to foul tactics.

FAIR SHARE

Bennett also dished out an ample share of fouls, but left the ring as soon as the going got too hot for him.

The northern duo's dubious moves paid off, however, as Armstrong obtained the equalising submission.

Armstrong and Bennett brought about their own downfall soon after this incident by resorting to more illegalities — and were given their marching orders by referee Les Lunn.

WRESTLING
W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
 SATURDAY, APRIL 5th, at 8 p.m.

Classic Top of the Bill T.V. Stars 10x5 FARMER JOHN ALLAN Halifax v. ERIC TAYLOR European Mid-Heavyweight Champion, Bradford	Heavyweight Contest 8x5 GIANT JUMBO U.S.A. v. JACK BRITAIN Stamford.
Catchweight Contest 6x5 RON MARINO GOLDEN TERROR v.	Catchweight Contest 8x5 TAMANCHI v. STOKER BROOKS Royal Navy.

PRICES: 10/- 7/6 5/-
 Booking: Phillips, Newsagents, 1 Boston Road, Holbeach.
 Tel. 2370

The fans forgave the no-show and continued to turn up in fair old numbers to support Starr Promotions, and as we go into 1969 we'll pick a few shows to highlight.

Wrestling returns to Holbeach

Wrestling returns to Holbeach W.I. Hall tomorrow (Saturday), with some of the country's top "grunt 'n groaners" providing the action which last season drew almost capacity crowds for each tournament.

Boston's Bill Clark, present holder of the Eastern Counties heavyweight title, takes on a handful in the shape of Humphrey Mendoza a tough grappler who is capable of giving the Boston star a hard time.

But Clark who last season gained a disqualification victory over masked star "The Professor" at Holbeach, should be able to rack up another win.

Television star Brian Trevors will have a considerable weight advantage against Hercules Nichols of Caister, in the top-of-the-bill match, and the Yorkshire wrestler will no doubt put this to good use.

A typical pre-bout attraction that Trevors engages in is to bend coins into an 'S' using his teeth.

Bad Bill Pye, of Wigan, will probably carry too many guns for young Tony Diamond, one of the London tag-team partners.

Ashram the Fire-eater, who has been known to eat fire in the ring before his match, will be facing Steve St. John. The tournament starts at 8 p.m.

WRESTLING W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, at 8 p.m.

Middleweight Contest 10 x 5
TV STAR

BRIAN TREVORS
Bend a penny into letter "S" with his teeth

v.
HERCULES NICHOLS
Norfolk's champion weightlifter.

Middleweight Contest 6 x 5
STEVE ST. JOHN

v.
ASHRAM

Lightweight Contest 3 x 5

BAD BILL PYE

v.
TONY DIAMOND
One of the famous London Tag Team.

Heavyweight Contest 3 x 5

HUMPHREY MENDOZA

v.
BILL CLARK

PACKED HOUSE AT HOLBEACH WRESTLING

Boston grappling star Bill Clarke emerged victorious in a wrestling brawl at Holbeach W.I. Hall on Saturday, spurred on by his many fans who packed the hall.

The Boston star's opponent was the rugged Humphrey Mendoza, known to many mat enthusiasts as John L. Hagger.

The tough Clarke stood in his corner and smiled at Mendoza threw a pre-bout tantrum, but once the bell went both fighters were ready for action.

Mendoza's tactics soon brought the jeers of the crowd but they paid off in round three when he grabbed the first fall.

SWIPED

Mendoza found himself the victim of swipes with handbags and punches from the crowd which was behind Clarke.

The Boston grappler roared back into action and proceeded to demolish Mendoza, grabbing the equalising fall in round four, and the winner one round later.

As the Boston star acknowledged the cheers of the crowd, Mendoza made it quite

plain that he was far from satisfied with the decision.

He claimed that, with his tag partner Bad Bill Pye, who also wrestled on Saturday, they would take on any tag team which Lincolnshire could produce.

DISQUALIFIED

An ideal team to meet them would be the Lincolnshire Poachers, one of Britain's foremost tag teams, consisting, naturally, of Clarke, and Les Ray, Saturday's referee.

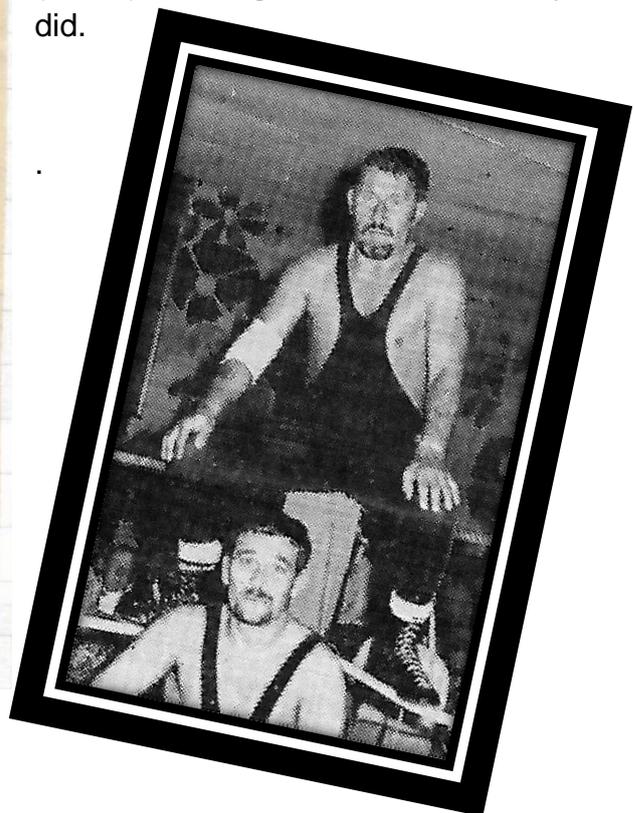
Pye was disqualified in his bout with Tony Diamond, after receiving two public warnings.

The top-of-the-bill bout produced a win for TV star Brian Trevors over the lighter Hercules Nichols.

The curtain-raiser was an exciting battle between Glynn Hall, of Scotland, and Steve St. John. St. John came out the winner of this well-received bout, when his opponent failed to beat the count in round five.

Bill used Brian Trevors' stable of workers from the local Anglia Promotions a fair few times. On this bill they dominated ... along with Bill himself facing the tough Humphrey Mendoza (John L Hagger).

Brian Trevors topped the bill against his own Hercules. Bill asked me to help set up the publicity for a Poachers vs Mendoza and Pye (below) challenge match, which I duly did.



W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
WRESTLING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, at 8 p.m.

Heavyweight contest. 10 x 5 TV STAR ERIC LEIDERMAN Hull v. Blackburn ROBERTS Scottish Mid-heavyweight champion	Light-heavyweight contest 8 x 5 MAX KEMP Rotherham v. STOKER BROCKS Royal Navy
Lightweight contest 6 x 5 ROBIN HOWARD v. MALCOLM MALLET	Heavyweight contest 8 x 5 GIANT WILLIAM MULDOON 6ft 4in Sheffield v. BURT ALLIDAY Wales

WRESTLING
W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
SATURDAY, 17th JANUARY, at 8 p.m.

Sensational Tag Team Challenge The CLARK Brothers v. MENDOZA & PYE	Light Heavyweight Contest LENO LARAZZI v. KURT VON SNYDER
Lightweight Contest ROBIN HOOD v. YOUNG RICARDO	Catchweight Contest ASHRAM the Fireball v. STEPHEN ST. JOHN

Booking: Phillips, Newsagents, West End, Holbeach, Tel. 2370.
 PRICES: 10/-, 7/6, 5/-
 70

WRESTLING
W.I. HALL HOLBEACH
SATURDAY, 14th FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

TV Star 8 x 5 JACK DEMPSEY British Welterweight Champion v. TV Star BRIAN TREVORS Keightley	8 x 5 BOB SHERRY Bolton v. Hereules NICHOLLS Lowestoft
6 x 5 STEPHEN ST. JOHN v. BOB RICHARDSON	8 x 5 PETER HEWITT Wigan v. MALCOLM ROPER Norwich

PRICES: 10/-, 7/6, 5/-
 Booking: Phillips, Newsagents, 4 West End, Holbeach. Tel. 2370. 70

W.I. HALL, HOLBEACH
WRESTLING
SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, at 8 p.m.

TV & FILM STAR DOCKER v. DON STEDMANN v. BILL CLARK v. DEREK PERKINS v. LENO LARAZZI	VINCE APOLLO v. JACK BRITAIN IRISH TV STAR PETE KELLY v. YOUNG RICARDO
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PRICES: 10/-, 7/6, 5/-
 BOOKING: Phillips, Newsagents, 4 West End, Holbeach. Tel. 2370.

As we move into 1970 you can see the way Bill used himself as the villain-killer, facing the likes of the Professor, Pye and Mendoza and then the Docker Don who turned heel for the evening. As with Trans World, a lot of the names do re-occur, but the match-ups were very skilfully thought through.

10) Whittlesey Winners

The Whittlesey Gliderdome ... or the Glider ... was the venue of choice for Starr Promotions as they neared Peterborough, where Dale Martin had successfully set up shop.

Again, there's the link with Brian Trevors as we whizz through four of the Whittlesey cards.

GLIDERDROME WHITTLESEY
WRESTLING
Wed., 15th Oct., 8 pm

Classic Heavyweight Contest 10 x 5 TV Star FARMER JOHN ALLAN Halifax v TV Star ERIC TAYLOR Bradford European Mid-Heavyweight Champion Gold Belt Holder	Heavyweight Contest 6 x 5 TV Star ERIC LEIDERMAN Hull v BILL CLERK Eastern Counties Star
Middleweight 8 x 5 STEPHEN ST JOHN v ASHRAM The Fire Eater	Light Heavyweight 8 x 5 STOKER BROOKS Royal Navy v HUMPHREY MENDOZA Spain

Prices 10/-, 7/6, 5/-
 Bookings from Chatterbox Coffee House, Market Place, Whittlesey. Also at Gliderdome, Friday and Saturday evening 69

69

GLIDERDROME WHITTLESEY WRESTLING

WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER
Doors open 7 pm — Commence 8 pm

<p>Heavyweight contest 10 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TV Star ERIC LEIDERMAN Hull</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DON MITCHELL Bradford</p>	<p>Catchweight contest 8 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TV Star ERIC SANDS Bradford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MICK LA ROCHE Canada</p>
<p>Heavyweight Tag Match 40 mins</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE TERRORS Diabolical Matmen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE CLARKS Bill and Brian</p>	<p>Middleweight contest 8 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TV Star BRIAN TREVORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HERCULES NICHOLLS Weight Lifting Champion</p>

PRICES: — 10/- 7/6 5/-
BOOKINGS: — Chatterbox Coffee House, Market Place,
Whittlesey, or at door on the night

70

WRESTLING

GLIDADROME, WHITTLESEY
WEDNESDAY 21st JAN AT 8 PM

<p>£100 Tag Return Challenge Fight to finish.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE DIABOLICAL TERRORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE CLARK BROS. Bill and Brian</p>	<p>Heavyweight Contest 8 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ERIC TAYLOR European Mid-Heavyweight champion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOMA HANSOM</p>
<p>Light Heavyweight 6 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LENO LARAZZI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KURT VON SNYDER</p>	<p>Heavyweight Contest 10 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KLONDYKE JAKE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GIANT JUMBO</p>

Prices: 10/- 5/-
Booking: Chatterbox Coffee House, Whittlesey, and the Glida-
drome.

WRESTLING

GLIDADROME - WHITTLESEY

WEDNESDAY, 18th NOVEMBER at 8 pm

<p>Sensational Tag Match 40 minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KLONDYKE BILL 32 stone and THE OUTLAW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FARMER JOHN ALLAN and BIG BILL CLARK</p>	<p>Heavyweight Contest 8 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ERIC TAYLOR Bradford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STOKER BROOKES Royal Navy</p>
<p>Heavyweight Contest 6 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KEN SNOW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOE FRANKS</p>	<p>Heavyweight Contest 8 x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RIC CHARLES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE COLLEGE BOY</p>

PRICES: 10/6 8/- 6/-
Booking: Les Coles, Hairdresser, Market Street,
Whittlesey. Also at door

70

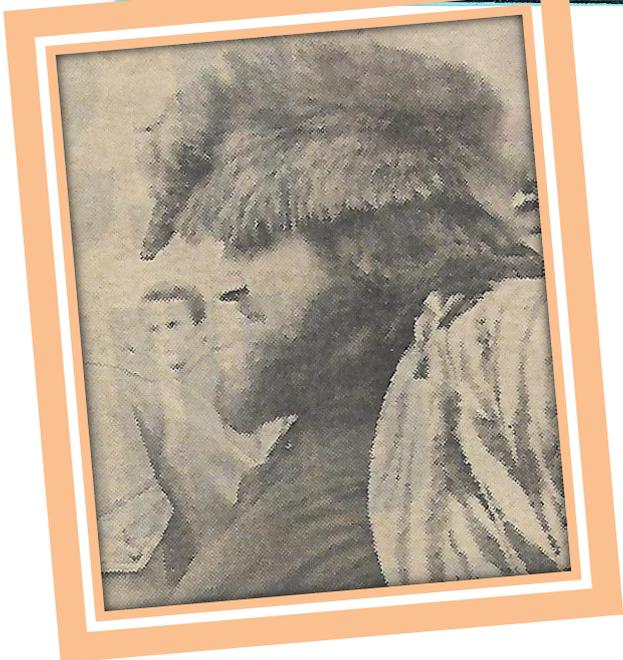
Monthly quota

Whittlesey grappling fans had their monthly quota of action and excitement at the Gliderdrome on Wednesday when the ring sagged beneath the weight of the bill tag contest which had the 32 stone Klondyke Bill as one of the participants.

The masked giant Alaskan and Outlaw joined forces to meet Yorkshire's 'Farmer' Johnny Allan and Boston Johnny paigner Bill Clark and found themselves on the receiving end.

With the popular Clark-Allan combination snatching the odd fall to win Klondyke Bill and his masked partner made a hasty exit, the Outlaw with a solo challenge from Clark ringing in his ears.

Evergreen Cambridge cam-paigner the College Boy up-set the fans with his tactics won by a knockout, and in other bouts Eric Taylor (Bradford) defeated Stoker Brooks (Leeds) while Ken Snow (London) beat Joe Franks (Melton).



Klondike Bill (L) alongside the Outlaw facing Big Bill Clark and Farmer Johnny Allan. That was a line-up or the troops! And in this show, one of the final bills at Whittlesey, another appearance by John Romeiro ... and I can still find out nothing about this good, solid worker.

Lest we forget, Bill also took Starr Promotions to Donington. Now that really is pushing it for size. The Dial Hall (below) was, let's say, cozy.

The only clip I've got for bills there is this one (R), which has what could be regarded as a Starr 'sampler' menu on show.



Mick Collins and Taffy Jenkins with their classic opener. Bill facing Vince Apollo, and our old friend the ex-suicide pilot preparing for another flight

DIAL HALL, DONINGTON			
WRESTLING			
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th			
Doors Open 7 p.m.		Commence 8 p.m.	
Heavyweight contest	8x5	Middleweight contest	8x5
Kamikaze		Mick Collins	
v.		Belfast	
Leno Larazzi		v.	
Italy's Golden Boy		Taffy Jenkins	
		Tony Pandey, Wales	
Heavyweight contest	8x5	Catchweight contest	8x5
Vince Apollo		Pepe Lapaque	
Nottingham		Finland	
v.		v.	
Bill Clark		Kurt Von Snyder	
Boston		Germany	
PRICES: 10/- 7/6 5/-			
BOOKING: H. L. Short, Pet Shop,			
11 High Street, Donington, Tel. 458			

Bill Clark continued wrestling through the Golden Years. As mentioned earlier, he will



go down in the annals as the man, when working with Terry Goodrum (L), who borrowed or stole (but most certainly used and abused) Kendo Nagasaki's name, got embroiled in a legal battle, became King Kendo, and then actually feuded with the real Nagasaki. Goodrum

turned tearaway and used many different names, including Sandor Kovacs (Mk II).

Whatever you say about Bill Clark, he wasn't one for the quiet life!

Next time we will take a look at Fenland charity shows, and head to the Norfolk heartland to highlight Brian Trevors' Anglia Promotions shows. Brian seldom ventured from his promotional comfort zone once he left Joint ... and he became something of a best-kept secret as far as the rest of the country is concerned. If you ever saw Brian bend coins with his teeth in the ring before performing, the phrase "Don't Try This At Home" never rang so true!

to be continued