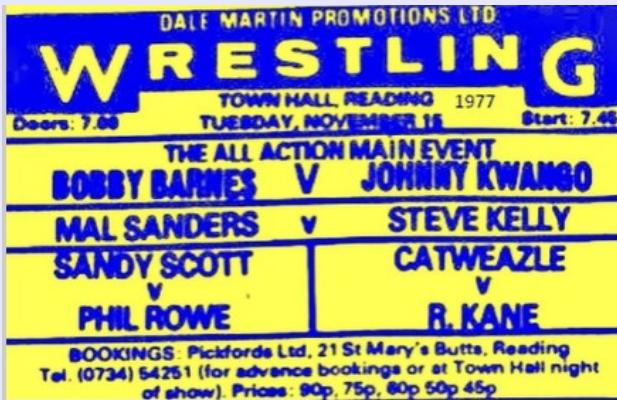


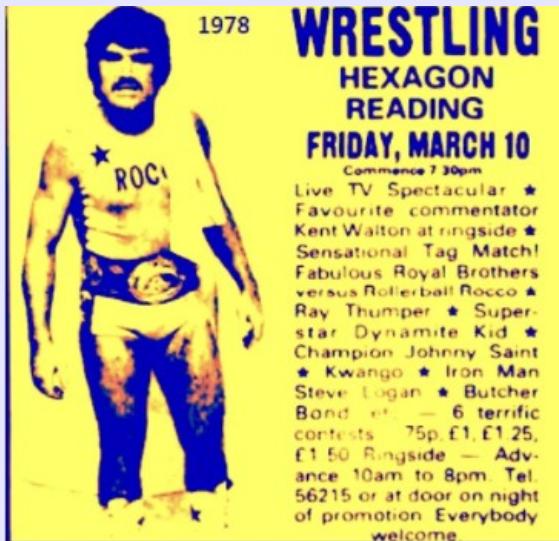
Ron's Wrestling Ramblings

Join Ron Historyo and add your comments in the forum
<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/reading-wrestling>

Reading



In December 1977 Reading Town Hall said goodbye to wrestling and a new building the Hexagon was to become its next home.



What was the history of Wrestling in Reading and how long had the Town Hall been used?

Tuesday, 2nd November
at 8 p.m. 1948
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION ELIMINATOR
8-10s, 2 Falls, Sods or E.G.

Major CLEM
LAWRENCE
(Chelmsford) Leading Contender
v.
ERNIE "KIWI"
KINGSTON
Champion of New Zealand
All Star Supporting Programme
ADM. PRICES 2/6 to 10/6
DON'T MISS THIS SHOW
BOOK NOW - From Barnes & Avis
Ltd., 1 Prior Street, Reading

Thus far I have not found any wartime or 1930's wrestling in the town , but I did find in 1948 that Wrestling was frowned upon and there had been a ban on it at the Town Hall.

I don't know if it had been tried or if it had been kept out of the town , but Dale Martins were entrusted to a trial with some nice clean wrestling to attempt to win a lease for regular shows at the Town Hall.

Odd other venues were used sometimes but the Town Hall tenure lasted nearly 30 years.This was the trial show and the earliest wrestling I have found in Reading. Support was Ron Harrison v Babe Quesick, Vic Coleman v Al Jackson, McManus v Capelli, and Alan Garfield gave a weight lifting exhibition.

The Ost

The 1948 one therefore is a new find. Nice one Ron.

Hack

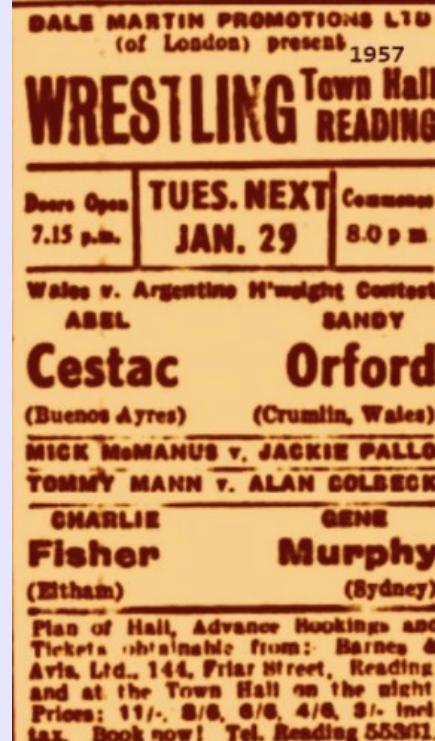
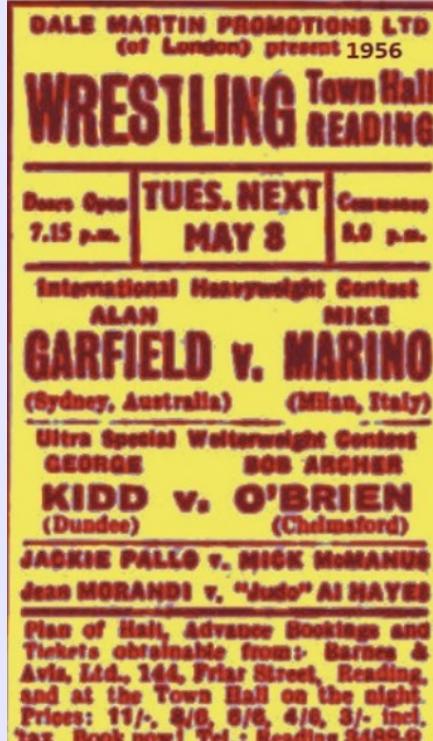
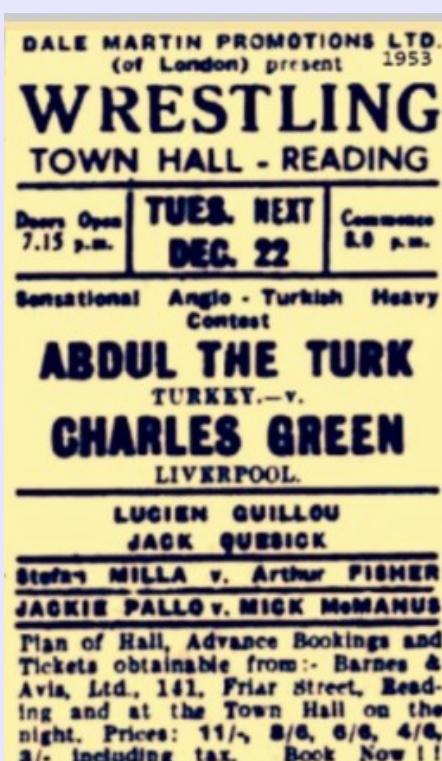
There was definitely a reluctance to stage wrestling in Reading. But there are suggestions wrestling took place before then. Ray Plunkett has his first bill on 6th March, 1935. Where he got that from I've no idea and can find no evidence. The Reading Standard of 2nd October 1936 does say that Bert Howarth is going to stage all-in wrestling at Palm Lodge on 6th October, 1936. Main event Van Dutz v Ray St Bernard, with Fred Unwin v Stan Stone in support. The Reading Standard of 6th November, 1936 said it was unlikely there would be more wrestling at the Palm Lodge, but the Corn Exchange was a possible venue. On 1st January the newspaper reported: "And a bit 'fishy' was the attempt to popularise all-in wrestling. At least we had one sample of it, and that was that. You are left to decide whether Reading disliked wrestling or wrestling disliked Reading."

Ron

A year or more ago we debated the 1950's matches between McManus and Pallo and we even had a list.

I contributed their earliest ever meeting (known) as a December 1952 bout at Bedford. However despite having this bill Jackie Pallo was a substitute. I have found a bill at Reading that I think is the earliest where they are "billed" together. I think so far the only 1953 example.

Examples of their meetings are becoming more and more and I found another two at reading in the 1950's Note they are always undercard.



DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS, LTD.
proudly present 1961

WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 pm	TUESDAY JUNE 13	Comm. 8 pm
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International Heavyweight Contest
ERICK **TIBOR**
KOLTSCHA'K versus **SZAKACS**
(Berlin) (Budapest, Hungary)

Buddy Cody v
The Winner of the Steve Logan v
Spencer Churchill Contest on May 20

Harry Kendall v Dennis Dean
(Brixton) (Sydney, Australia)

'Mr. TV' Pallo v Mick McManus
(Highbury) (New Cross)

Plan of hall, advance bookings and
tickets obtainable from: Barnes &
Avis, Ltd., 144 Friar Street, Reading,
and at the Town Hall on the night.
Prices: 11/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/-. (inc.
tax). Book now! Tel. Reading 50361

DALE-MARTIN Promotions Ltd. present

WRESTLING TOWN HALL, READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUESDAY NEXT	Comm. 8.00 p.m.
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Super International Heavyweight
Contest

PAT O'REILLY
IRELAND

RAY HUNTER
TASMANIA

Mick McMANUS v. Steve LOGAN
F. O'DONNELL v. J. WILLIAMS
An Anglo-Canadian Heavyweight
Match

JACQUES LA ROUCHE
v. **DON STEDMANN**

PRICES 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/-
including tax. Plan of hall,
advance bookings and tickets
obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd.,
141, Friar Street Reading, and at
the Town Hall on the night of the
Show. **5th FEB 1952 BOOK NOW!**

It's the 1960's now and a fourth tear up but still before their cup final day explosion.

Jackie is now "Mr TV" but still they are propping the card up.

Just for good measure I also throw in a McManus v Logan match , very early in 1952.

These meetings were not so frequent.

It seems that for the first four years the Town Hall was not always available. I know that crowds were about 1000 and I don't think the Olympia Dance Hall was any bigger so I am struggling to see any other reason that some shows were done here. These sit side by side with Town Hall bills.

WRESTLING			WRESTLING!			WRESTLING			WRESTLING			WRESTLING			WRESTLING					
OLYMPIA BALLROOM. LONDON STREET, READING			Olympia Ballroom London Street - Reading			Olympia Ballroom LONDON STREET, READING			Olympia Ballroom, Reading TUES., SEPTEMBER 20 Doors open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m.			Olympia Ballroom, Reading TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.			Olympia Ballroom, Reading TUESDAY, APRIL 18 Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 p.m.					
Tuesday, December 13th Doors Open 7.15 Commence 8.00			TUESDAY, MARCH 22nd Doors open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8.00 DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS LTD. proudly present Southern Area Light Heavyweight Championship and Silver Cup Sanctioned by Southern Wrestling Board of Control.			1949 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th Doors Open 7.15 p.m. Commence 8 p.m.			Great Heavyweight Attraction! Tony MANCELLI Ex-King's Sergeant, R.A.F. "The Blackfriar Thunderbolt."			Great Heavyweight Attraction! Ken DAVIES (Wales). One of the strongest Wrestlers in the King.			Great Heavyweight Attraction! O'REILLY (Ireland). 171st Irish Strong Boy and Challenger for the British Heavyweight Title. Has met and defeated some of the world's greatest Wrestlers to meet Australia.					
Public Demand Heavyweight Contest			SONNY WALLIS HAMMERMITH—R. Area Champion v. CHAS. FISHER POPLAR—Pride of London's East End.			Tremendous Heavyweight International BETT ASSIRATI British Empire Heavyweight Champion, versus BLACK BUTCH JOHNSON			EDWARD PITTMAN v. Arthur FISHER Ex-R.A.F. Sailor, Son of the Fisher Family.			EDWARD PITTMAN v. Arthur FISHER Ex-R.A.F. Sailor, Son of the Fisher Family.			BEARDED KEN DAVIES					
PAT O'REILLY (Ireland). The toughest man in the ring.			ARCHER O'BRIEN v. KID PITTMAN London Middleweight Challenge Match For 10 minute Rounds.			TONY MANN v. SLIPP MEAGHER KID PITTMAN v. STAR STONE			EDWARD PITTMAN v. Arthur FISHER Ex-R.A.F. Sailor, Son of the Fisher Family.			EDWARD PITTMAN v. Arthur FISHER Ex-R.A.F. Sailor, Son of the Fisher Family.			Wales. 171st of dynamic power and cracking strength. A wrestler with an international reputation and a great record.					
ERNEST "KIWI" KINGSTON Heavyweight champion of New Zealand.			JACK DALY British Middleweight Champion, v. HARRY FIELDS Bradford.			DAI SULLIVAN v. MIKE MARINO			EDWARD PITTMAN v. Arthur FISHER Ex-R.A.F. Sailor, Son of the Fisher Family.			EDWARD PITTMAN v. Arthur FISHER Ex-R.A.F. Sailor, Son of the Fisher Family.			Don't Miss This Great Contest! USUAL ALL-STAR SUPPORTING PROGRAMME 1950					
'College Boy' v. Kid Pittman			MIKE MARINO v. DAVID DAVY Italy Wales			ADMISSION (including tax): 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			ADMISSION (including tax): 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			ADMISSION (including tax): 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			Prizes of Admission 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949					
Jack Dempsey v. Steve Logan Star Stone v. Lee Britton			Tickets 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/-, from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar St., Reading, or from Olympia on night of tournament. 1949			Tickets 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/-, from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar St., Reading, or from Olympia on night of tournament. 1949			Tickets 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/-, from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar St., Reading, or from Olympia on night of tournament. 1949			Tickets 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/-, from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar St., Reading, or from Olympia on night of tournament. 1949			Prizes of Admission 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949					
Book now at Barnes and Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading. Prices of Admission: 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			Book now at Barnes and Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading. Prices of Admission: 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			Book now at Barnes and Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading. Prices of Admission: 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			Book now at Barnes and Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading. Prices of Admission: 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			Book now at Barnes and Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading. Prices of Admission: 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949			Prizes of Admission 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- (including tax) 1949					
It's a Dale Martin Promotion																				
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Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY, JAN. 24 Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY, NOV. 14 Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY OCT. 17 Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT Commence 8.00 p.m. Dec 11			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY OCT. 14 Commence 8.00 p.m.					
Tremendous Heavyweight Attraction Introducing the World-beating THUNDERBIRD			A Sensational Heavyweight Contest CHIEF THUNDERBIRD The Mighty Modeste, the Show Business Champ.			Super 4 Star Heavyweight Contest GEORGE Pencheff First appearance of Australian Veteran			A Super Heavyweight Contest RAY HUNTER TASMANIA—Ex. No.			MIKE MARINO MILAN, ITALY.			GIANT ANACONDA the English Cossack (70 st. 19 cwt.)					
CHAS. GREENE			FRANCIS ST. CLAIR GREGORY Bedrock, Comedy, official Western Area Champion.			DAVID Armstrong Newcastle. A superbly athletic Heavyweight			JULES KIKI			JOHNNY SWENSKI Fairfield, Mass. E.S.A. veteran in Europe.								
PAT O'REILLY Ireland, the well-known strong boy			Nick McNamee v. Johnny PETERS E. LAWRENCE v. George KIDD Sonny WALLIS v. Bob HARRISON			Ken JOYCE v. CHIEF THUNDERBIRD Mike MARINO v. Jim ANDERSON Lee BRITTON v. Nat RABIN			Les STENT v. Vic COLEMAN Arthur FISHER v. Steve LOGAN			GEORGE KIDD World's Lightweight Champion								
BEN CHEMOUL French Veteran.			Prices of Admission (including tax): 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- Plan of hall and advance bookings, tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading, or at Olympia on night of show. Book Now!			Prices of Admission (including tax): 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/- and 2/- Plan of hall and advance bookings, tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading, or at Olympia on night of show. Book Now!			Prices 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/- including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading, and at the Ballroom on the night of the show. Book Now!			Prices 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/- including tax. Plan of hall, advance bookings and tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading, and at the Ballroom on the night of the show. Book Now!			Prices 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-, 2/- (including tax) all seats bookable Plan of hall, Advance bookings and Tickets obtainable from Barnes & Avis Ltd., 141, Friar Street, Reading, and at the Ballroom on the night of the show. Book Now!					
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WRESTLING			WRESTLING			WRESTLING			WRESTLING			WRESTLING			WRESTLING					
OLYMPIA BALLROOM			OLYMPIA BALLROOM, READING			OLYMPIA BALLROOM			OLYMPIA BALLROOM			OLYMPIA BALLROOM			OLYMPIA BALLROOM					
Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY NEXT Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY MAY 15 Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY OCT. 14 Commence 8.00 p.m.			Doors Open 7.15 p.m. TUESDAY OCT. 14 Commence 8.00 p.m.					
A Super Programme of Interna- tional Stars			A SENATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST			Super Anglo-French Contest			For the Official Mid-West Champion- ship of G. Britain and "Arena" Gold Belt			Colourful International Heavy Contest			EL SAID ARABET					
FRANCE v. ENGLAND			TONY MANCELLI BLACKBURN REX GABLE AUSTRALIA			Edmond LIEHN BERNAN, FRANCE v. Glen Lawrence CHELMSFORD			HARRY FIELDS DEWSBURY, Y. KID PITTMAN LONDON			MILO POPOCOPOLIS ATHENS			MILO POPOCOPOLIS ATHENS					
CLAUDE MONTORGY v. ARTHUR BEAUMONT			IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL WELTERWEIGHT CONTEST			JACK QUIGG v. ERIC CAPPELLI JOHNNY WOODS v. LEN BRITTON The COLLEGE BOY v. STAR STONE			FRANK HUGHES v. PAT SLOKE Gerry de JONCK v. Arthur Beaumont IRON-MIKE BARRETT BROKEN HILL, AUSTRALIA, v. DON STEPHEN LONDON			KEM JOYCE v. STEVE LOGAN Kid PITTMAN v. Tommy MANN Mike McNamee v. Johnny Williams			KEM JOYCE v. STEVE LOGAN Kid PITTMAN v. Tommy MANN Mike McNamee v. Johnny Williams					
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**THE HEAVYWEIGHT
WRESTLING
CHAMPIONSHIP**
of 1950
St. Britain & British Empire

**READING GREYHOUND
STADIUM**
OXFORD RD., READING

Friday, August 18
8 o'clock

ASSIRATI
British Heavyweight Champion.
O'REILLY

No. 1 Contender.

SMITH v. CAPOLI	GARDNER v. STONE
Tony Mancelli	British Johnsons
Mike Marini	Pat Barry

Tickets, Barnes & Avis, Friar St., Reading, 15/-, 10/-, 5/-, 2/-, 1/-, 2/-, 2/-

WRESTLING

TOWN HALL, READING
Tuesday, July 12

Doors Open 7.30 Commence 8.0

*Tremendous Black versus White
Heavyweight International*

BERT

ASSIRATI

British Heavyweight Champion and Empire Champion. Known all over Europe and America, versus

BLACK BUTCH

JOHNSON

The Joe Louis of The Mat. A wily wrestler of international repute who will make Bert fight hard. 1949

Stan STONE v. Vic COLEMAN
Archie O'BRIEN v. Mick HANNING
Chas. FISHER v. Mike MARINO

A Dale Martin Promotion

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Wrestling!

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Monday, June 4
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1951
International Heavyweight Contest

Bert Assirati

London, 17½ stone, British and Empire Heavyweight Champion. Modern Hercules.

versus

Mick Casey

Dublin, 17½ stone, British and Empire Heavyweight Champion. Youngest of the famous Casey Bros.

Special Heavyweight Contest

MILO

Greece, Light-Heavyweight Champion of Europe

versus

"RED" MCKENZIE

Scotland, one of the toughest and gamiest fighters.

And Full Supporting Programme.

Prices (including tax) 10/- (Ringside res.), 7/6 (res.), 5/- (res.), 3/6 (grandstand seats), 2/- (standing). Advance bookings by post, Barnes & Avis Ltd., 140, Friar Street, Reading. Phone 34980.

!Wrestling!

READING STADIUM
MONDAY, JUNE 19
Commence 8 p.m.

1951
THE GREATEST CONTEST EVER
SEEN IN READING

ALI

MUSTAPHA

THE TURK versus

"GORGEOUS"

BILL VERA

38-stone Australian Vendor Boy

versus

TONY MANOELLI

Venezuela

versus

JEAN PICOT

Full Supporting Programme

2,000 SEATS ON SALE AT DOOR

Prices of Admission: 10/-, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6 reserved; Grand Stand 2/- unreserved. Book now at Barnes & Avis, 140, Friar Street, Reading. Phone 34980.

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Have a look at Garfield in Reading.

WRESTLING
TOWN HALL, READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT FEB. 3	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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Sensational All-Action Heavy Contact
ALAN GARFIELD
AUSTRALIA v.
PATRICK O'REILLY
IRELAND.

Book now! Tel. Reading 55361.

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(including tax).
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PRICES: 11/-, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 8/-
(including tax).

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(of London) present 1958

WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT JAN. 14	Commence 8 p.m.
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Commonwealth Heavyweight Contest
ALAN SINGH v. GARFIELD
(Amaristar) (Sydney, Australia)

Dennis WARD v. Steve LOGAN
Frankie HUGHES v. Pat ELOKE

ARJIT SINGH v. TAYLOR
(India) (Birmingham)

Plan of Hall, Advance Bookings and Tickets obtainable from: Barnes & Avis, Ltd., 144, Friar Street, Reading, and at the Town Hall on the night. Prices: 11/-, 8/6, 6/6, 4/6, 8/- incl. tax. Book now! Tel. Reading 55361.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS, LTD.
(of London) present 1960

WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT JAN. 26	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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An Ultra Special Heavyweight Contest
BILLY TWO RIVERS v. GARFIELD
(Quebec, Canada) (Sydney, Australia)

Archer O'Brien v. Al Nicol
(Chelmsford) (Nottingham)

Achim Chell v. Gordon Nelson
(Berlin) (Montreal)

Guy Lombardo v. Jim Morandi
(Singapore) (London)

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WRESTLING
TOWN HALL - READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT JUNE 21	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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Anglo-Australian Heavy Contact
ALAN GARFIELD
(Sydney, Australia) v.
JUDO AL HAYES
(Westminister)

Vic COLEMAN v. GENE ED MANGOTICH
Mick McMANUS v. JACK CUNNINGHAM

Black v. White Heavyweight Contest
Black Butch v. Charles JOHNSON v. FISHER

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT APRIL 21	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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A Sensational "Clash of Giants"
KINGSTON v. GARFIELD
(Christchurch, N.Z.) (Sydney, Aus.)

LES KELLETT v. TONY VALLON
MICK McMANUS v. TED HANNON

PETER DEAKIN v. SZAKACS
(Leicester) (Budapest)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT JUNE 28	Commence 8 p.m.
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A Sensational Heavyweight Contest
JOHN DA SILVA v. GARFIELD
(Auckland, New Zealand) (London)

Nick McManus v. Alan Colbeck
Clayton Thompson v. Doug Joyce

Gwyn Davies v. Big Bill Torna
Meeting Perth, Australia

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT NOV. 8	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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Book v. White Heavyweight Contest
ALAN GARFIELD v. JOHNSON
AUSTRALIA WEST INDIES

ERIC TAYLOR v. HARRY FIELDS
Peter RANN v. Bob Archer O'BRIEN

International Light-Heavyweight Contest
CHARBO v. BLAKE-MONTES v. KWANGO

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT FEB. 10	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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Black v. White Heavyweight Contest
RAY APOLLON v. GARFIELD
(Trinidad) (Sydney, Australia)

Tony CHARLES v. Johnny FOLEY
Malwyn RIBB v. Peter ZAKAGI

VON DILLINGER v. ROBINSON
(London)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 pm	TUESDAY NOV. 29	Comm. 8 pm
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All-Action Heavyweight Contest
EMIL POILVE v. GARFIELD
(Manchester) (London)

Marty SWANN v. Bob Archer O'BRIEN
Black KWANGO v. Gerry HOGAN

Tibor Szakacs v. Dave Armstrong
(Budapest) (Chippington)

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT JAN. 3	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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PAUL BERGER v. GARFIELD
ZURICH SYDNEY

FAT KLORE v. BEN SHAW

ICHA JUDAH ISRAEL v. MARTIMEUS JACOBS

Book v. Black MCNAMEE v. BILLY HOWES

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 p.m.	TUES. NEXT SEPT. 8	Commence 8.00 p.m.
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MARTIN v. GARFIELD
(Brussels) (Sydney, Australia)

PETER DEAKIN v. MANCELLI (London)

Jack CUNNINGHAM v. Jackie PALLE

Tony VALLON v. Johnny CEESLAW

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WRESTLING Town Hall READING

Doors Open 7.15 pm	TUESDAY AUGUST 8	Comm. 8 pm
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International Wrestling at its best Commonwealth Heavyweight Contest
GEORGES GORJEN v. GARFIELD
(Winnipeg, Canada) (London)

Outstanding Light-heavyweight contest
Steve Logan v. Dennis Doss (Sydney, Australia)

Brian Burke v. Jean Morandi

Buddy Cody v. Majid Akbar

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j_shelvey

Great research Ron. I think I could revert to being a kid again, if I woke up on Christmas morning and there was a Christmas stocking with a half a dozen (of those old bills stuffed in it!

Anglo Italian

Talking of Garfield, let's remember our much loved and departed forum maestro Old David who once recalled seeing Garfield v Marino in Kent on a Tuesday. The next day he found himself in Reading and went blind to the wrestling, not knowing who was on. Wasn't it only Garfield v Marino again! Skeptical, Old David expected to see the same bout rehashed, but saw a completely different contest. He was very impressed. I see Marino and Gafield at it in Reading even 15 years before Old David saw them. Otherwise, someone was watching Garfield's Reading opponents with great care as there are no repeats and big names like Dara Singh and Georges Gordienko. Between January and June 1960 we can see Garfield's billing switch from Sydney to London. Must have been when he started his backchat with his London accent. Always scope to ponder a new name, though: Jimmy Munlack opposing Steve Logan? Odd name. Must have been real!

SaxonWolf

For me, at least, this only goes to deepen the Garfield mystery. A main eventer for many years who just never made it into the TV era properly. Do we really believe it was because he somehow upset Kent Walton?

Anglo Italian

We don't really know, Saxonwolf, but it's the only story we have and has to be the history at this point. It's rather fun, so no harm going with it in my opinion. Joined at the hip to Geo Kidd at that time. Kidd was a monkey, seemed to run with the fox and hunt with the hounds. Was never blackballed and commanded all the work (and Scottish venues) he wanted.

SaxonWolf

Actually Anglo, just a thought, but when Wrestling first appeared on TV, it was (of course) presented as a real sporting contest, were there any "villains" on TV in the late 50's and early 60's?, would Alan Garfield have come across as "too pantomime" at that point? I am clutching at straws I guess, because I just don't see why the promoters wouldn't have pushed him heavily on TV in the early days, with him being a prominent name, usually at the top of bill, who should have been well known to anyone who went to watch a live show.

Anglo Italian

Mmmm. True, he was clearly very well known. Should really have had more tv exposure than McManus and Pallo combined. Given that it was ALLLLLLL a work in spite of what we like to (pretend to) believe, the most rational and boring theory is that Garfield wanted it like this. They were all up to all sorts of shenanigans, Garfiled perhaps selling motors illegally? Some didn't want to be seen.

SaxonWolf

Not sure why Alan Garfield wouldn't want to be seen on TV? If you look at how many shows he headlined over the years, there must have been hundreds (thousands?) of people who saw his face on a weekly basis?

Ron

Maybe Garfield was never forgiven for working for Lincoln before his second tour. Not so with Capelli, but Garfield probably did what suited him and at that time Dale Martins were last.....Payback

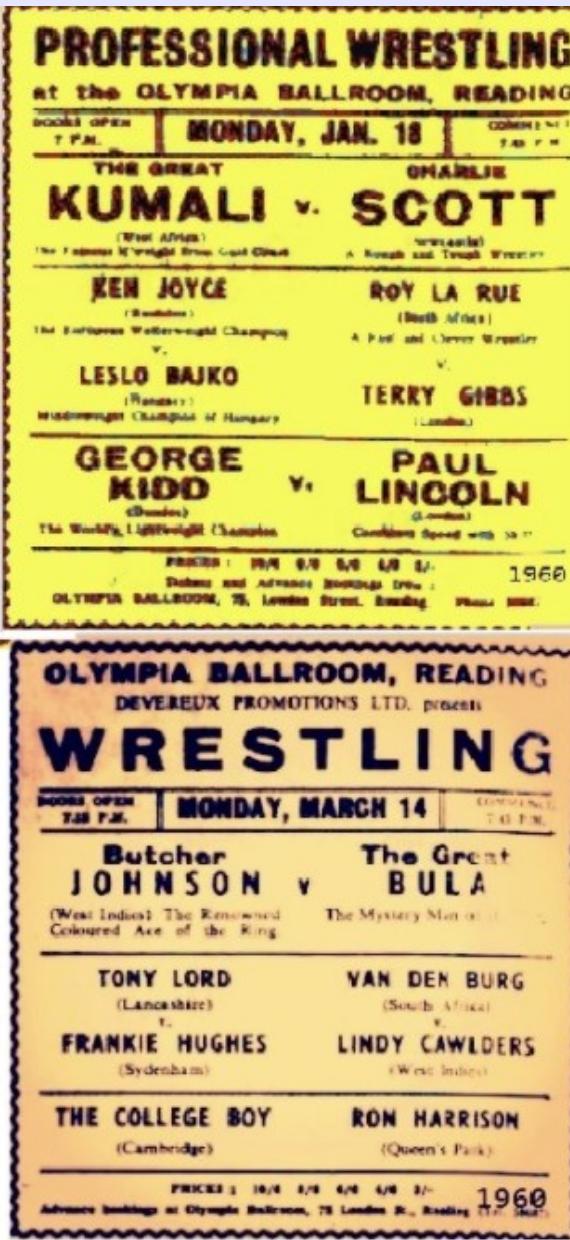
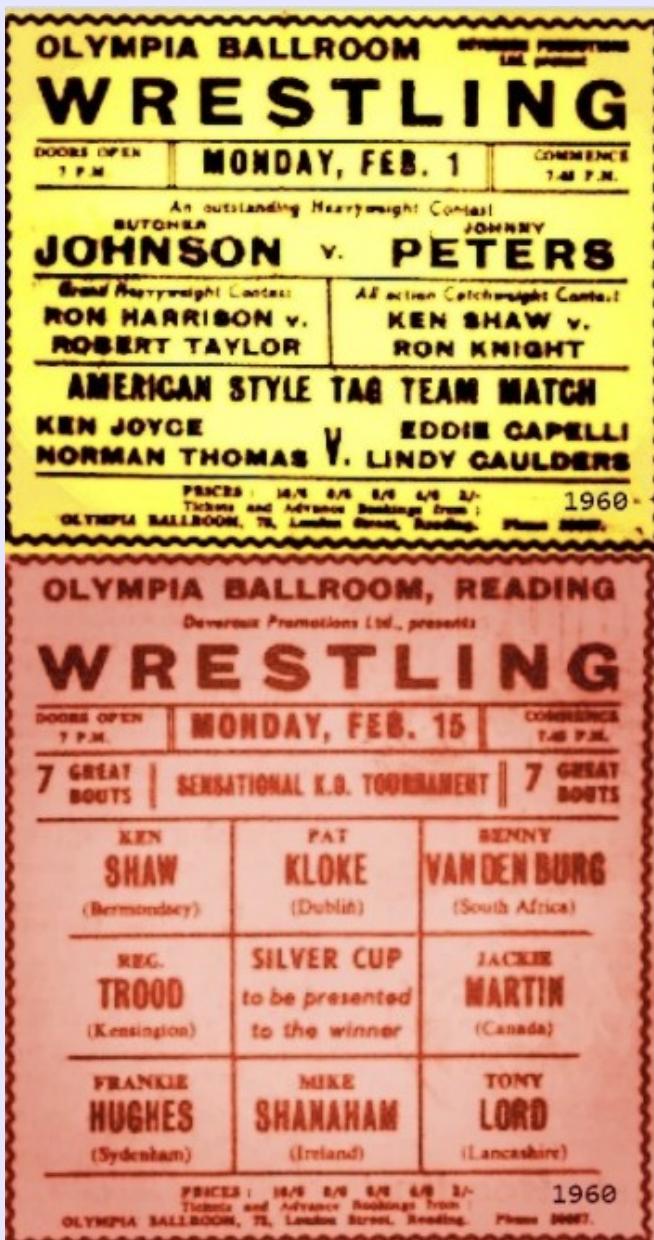
Fast forward to 1960, through the 50's Dale Martins had no opposition in Reading, but the Olympia Ballroom was snatched for a few shows.

Now we have talked about a relationship with Dales and Devereux before. But had not some of these guys left Joint by 1960.

And even more controversial I am claiming a "find". Has anyone ever seen Paul Lincoln billed under his own name in 1960 or beyond?

I did a thread on his debut and anytime in the late 1950's we thought there was an odd sighting, but we did not know if it was Lincoln. Ost, I think managed a few shows in January 1960 for Doctor Death and if you look here in January 18th I am showing you a bill that I believe could be the only physical bill where we see Paul Lincoln as himself.

So comments welcome on what Devereaux were doing and Paul Lincoln as himself this late. Is this history.



Ron

Finally a variety from the Town Hall

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WRESTLING

TOWN HALL, READING

Doors Open	TUESDAY	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	JAN. 9	8 p.m.

The Mighty Robbie returns
CHIEF THUNDERBIRD
Champion of Canada
MIKE BYRNES
County Kerry, Ireland.

Eddie CAPELLI v. Young ATLAS
Harry FIELD v. Joe VORAZO
Garrison SMITH v. John WILLIAMS

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WRESTLING

TOWN HALL, READING

Doors Open	TUESDAY	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	MEXT.	8 p.m.

A SENSATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT
RETURN CLASH

"GIANT" ANAGONDA
The "Giant" Mr. Jim. England
Cameron

PAT O'REILLY
IRELAND—U.S. Box. 3rd. Super
Irish Wrestling Star.

George EBBY v. Eddie CAPELLI
Happy FIELD v. Tommy NAME

A Middleweight Contest
Stan STONE v. Kid PITTMAN

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Hall, seats, 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, 4/-, 5/-
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WRESTLING

TOWN HALL, READING

Doors Open	TUESDAY	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	SEPT. 18	8 p.m.

An International Waterweight
Contest

ROLAND DECONNICK
v.
GEORGE KIDD

THE BLACK PANTHER
v. **DON STEPHAN**

Steve LOGAN v. **Frank HUGHES**
Paul LINCOLN v. **Kid PITTMAN**

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WRESTLING

TOWN HALL - READING

Doors Open	TUES. NEXT	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	JUNE 22	8 p.m.

ABDUL THE TURK
TURKEY
V. MIKE MARINO
MILAN, ITALY

Pat O'NEILL v. **George Johnson**
(Dublin)
Joe LEWIS v. **Mike Mariano**
(Manchester)
Spencer CHURCHILL v. **J. PETERS**
(London)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUES. NEXT	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	FEB. 12	8 p.m.

Super International Heavyweight Contest
GEORGES v. **MIKE**
Goraleko Marino
(Ukraine) (Italy)

BAT KLOKS v. **FRANKIE HUGHES**
BERT ROYAL v. **LEE EDWARDS**

HASABA v. **BUDDY BABY**
(Gold Coast) (U.S.A.)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUES. NEXT	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	JAN. 15	8 p.m.

"Black v. White" Heavyweight Contest
BARON GARDENIA RAY
Faieta Apollon
(U.S.A.) (Trinidad)

Eddie CAPELLI v. **Arthur FISHER**
Buddy EBBY v. **Steve LOGAN**

GEORGE v. **BLACK BUTCH**
Nelson Johnson
(St. Boniface, Manitoba) (W. Indies)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUES. NEXT	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	MAR. 26	8 p.m.

International Heavyweight Contest
GEORGES v. **ERNIE**
GORDIENKO BALDWIN

ERIC TAYLOR v. **STEVE LOGAN**
KEN JOYCE v. **JEAN MORANDI**

International Waterweight Contest
DEMPSEY v. **MAHEAUFAUX**

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUES. NEXT	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	SEPT. 22	8 p.m.

Contest for Official Light-Heavyweight
Championship of Great Britain
ERNIE v. **BILLY**
RILEY v. **HOWES**

Antonio Montoro v. **Black Kwanga**
Peter Szakacs v. **Archer O'Brien**

JUDO AL v. **BILLY**
Hayes v. **Robinson**
(Westminster) (Manchester)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUES. NEXT	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	APRIL 5	8 p.m.

Commonwealth Heavyweight Contest
JUDO AL v. **GEORGES**
HAYES v. **GORDIENKO**
(Westminster) (Winnipeg)

PETER SZAKACS v. **ERIC OSMOND**
JACKIE PALLO v. **ALAN COLBECK**

KURT v. **BILLY**
WENZEL v. **RAWLINGS**
(Vienna, Austria) (Dewsbury)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUESDAY	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	JUNE 27	8 p.m.

International Wrestling at its best
GEORGES v. **GWYN**
GORDIENKO DAVIES
(Winnipeg, Canada) (Maebyr, Wales)

Melvyn Riss v. **Julian Morice**
(Bachdale) (Toulouse)

Bob Anthony v. **Brian Trevors**
(Chelmsford) (Knightley)

Johnny Yearsley v. **Charlie Fisher**
(Cardiff) (Eltham)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUESDAY	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	MAY 30	8 p.m.

Anglo-Italian Heavyweight Contest
BILLY v. **MIKE**
ROBINSON v. **MARINO**
(Manchester) (Milan, Italy)

Johnny Foley v. **Peter Szakacs**
(Leigh, Lancs) (Budapest)

Bobby Steele v. **Al Noel**
(Manchester) (Nottingham)

Steve Logan v. **Spencer Churchill**
(Eve, Surrey)

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WRESTLING

Town Hall READING

Doors Open	TUESDAY	Comme.
7.15 p.m.	OCTOBER 5	8 p.m.

International Wrestling at its best
International Heavyweight Contest
SHANNON TERRY v. **BILLY**
GARVIN v. **ROBINSON**
(Ottawa, Canada) (Manchester)

Mike Donlevy v. **Sadie Mills**
(County Mayo) (Westminster)

Harry Kendall v. **Joey Moretti**
(British) (St. Louis, France)

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Anglo Italian

Garfield. The Caswell Martin syndrome before his time?

SaxonWolf

Not sure what the Caswell Martin syndrome is, and not sure why Alan Garfield wouldn't want to be seen on TV?

Anglo Italian

Caswell Martin was brilliant. Could have had it all. Heaven knows what his real name was. But he worked the German tourneys and elsewhere and had several lives, not always wanting to be identified. All sorts of reasons. Hence my Garfield idea about the cars, but only an idea. Let's face it, if you're the taxman, in 1960 or 1970 how could you keep up with these guys?

Thing is, Garfield was so big, he replaced Assirati. Headlined all over the country. But unknown. He was unknown to most on here when I said he was my fave wrestler in 2004. And I only saw him in his twilight years ... but he was still mesmerising.

And yes Ron, the history of what was going on 60 years ago in the dressing rooms is slipping away from us. The Lincoln rise, trade unions, strikes, threats --- all within a relatively small pool of wrestlers. Most seemed to be forgiven instantly. But there must have been bad blood at the time.

I have Garfield, the employee, firmly in mind as someone who didn't care. He had his Bentleys.

But who knows?

SaxonWolf

Was he related to George Burgess? Brothers? Facialy, both very similar looking.

I know we joked about wrestlers having a "wrestling name" to fool the tax man, in the past, but this could have been the real reason of course.

Were Wrestlers ever paid in anything other than cash?

Join Ron Historyo and add your comments in the forum

<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/reading-wrestling>