

GOLDEN DAYS FOR FENLAND

ROUND 4

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



11) The Story So Far



Thus far we've trawled and crawled across the Fens looking at International Promotions, Trans World Promotions and Starr Promotions. Today we turn to the uncrowned Duke of Norfolk, Brian Trevors (L), who made his name with Joint and then set up Anglia Promotions.

It had a strong professional reputation for an Indy and did a lot of charity performances. Many Indy promoters did charity shows, and we'll look at a couple of them. Meanwhile, this round of "Golden Days for Fenland" takes a slightly different route. The basis of our look at Anglia Promotions will be through some pages of the Eastern Daily Press which ran a couple of well-written articles about Brian and his stable of battlers.

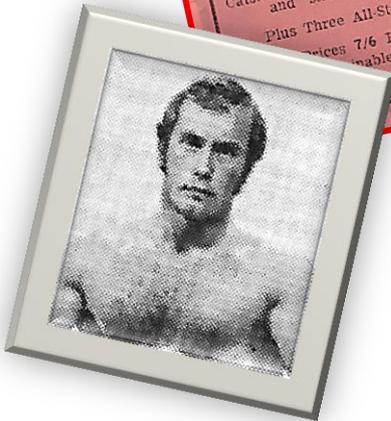
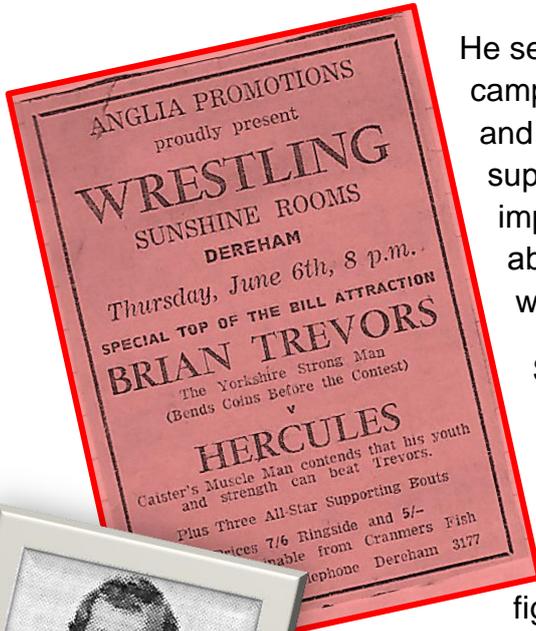
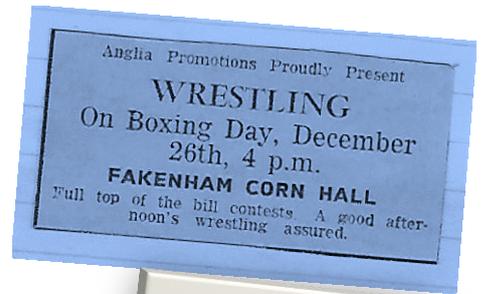
12) The Duke's Realm

Brian's promotions had rural Norfolk pretty well sewn up.

He set up rings in holiday camps, small halls, big halls and fetes. His story is set out superbly in Heritage, but it's impossible to write an article about the Fens' Golden Days without Brian Trevors.

So rather than look at individual halls and promotions I'm picking out a couple of EDP articles.

They look at his stable of fighters – and particularly his headliners, which included Brian himself, Hercules Nicholls (L) and the fearsome-looking tag pair of Bill Pye and Humphrey Mendoza(R), who also wreaked havoc as John L Hagger.



13) The Eastern Daily Press June 24 1968

Bruce Robinson's Monday Morning column looks at a typical night for Brian's Anglia Promotions

Backstage crises —but the show went on

“WHERE are the wrestlers' dressing rooms?” asked Brian Trevors as he strode into the deserted hall at the seaside holiday camp. The ring, erected earlier that afternoon, stood squarely and solidly in the centre of the dance floor stranded like a whale in the High Street; behind the glass screens on the far side, the old folk were finishing their dinner and stretching their legs prior to the evening's entertainment.

Ctd overleaf



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"Dressing rooms?" queried the greencoat. Clearly, it was something which had been overlooked. "Won't the stage do?" Trevors nodded imperceptibly, in pained agreement. "Do we change in front of the curtains, or behind them?" he asked in a masterly understatement.

The greencoat ignored the remark, or gave no sign of having heard, and the three of us sauntered across the polished wooden floor. Trevors stopped beside the ring and cast an experienced eye over the canvas. Then he smoothed away a few wrinkles with the palm of his hand. "Someone's been walking across it," he said suddenly. "Costs me a fortune in laundry bills."

Clear space

Brian Trevors has been a professional wrestler for 14 years, moving to Norfolk three years ago from Keighley, Yorkshire, scene of many of his ring triumphs. He runs an antiques business at Filby, a wrestling gymnasium at Fleggburgh, teaches wrestling at Martham Secondary Modern School, services a pack of snarling go-karts at Yarmouth and, as though that was not enough, also finds the time to run Anglia Wrestling Promotions and act as match-maker, promoter, fighter and referee.

And, of course, he erects the ring carrying it around, circus-like, in pieces on a trailer behind his van.

We lumbered through the side door, up the steps and on to the

stage, noticing immediately that the only clear space in which the wrestlers could change was between the piano and the cymbals.

"Will it do?" the greencoat asked anxiously. Trevors nodded, and began to lace up his long, black leather boots. Tonight he was the referee.

He asked if there was a record-player to hand. Why did he want it?

"Because we always play 'Entry of the Gladiators.' You know... 'dee dum diddle diddle e um ee ee.'"

The greencoat said they had the record, too, and hurried away to make the arrangements as the fighters wandered in, one by one, carrying their boots and gear in travelling bags.

Trevors reckons that in a year, and given three evenings a week, he can teach a man completely from scratch to a point where he could step into a ring. "It's a good sport," he said, "and it's growing in Norfolk. I've got some good boys at the gymnasium."

He teaches both codes, of course, amateur and professional, and for the shows staged by his own brainchild, Anglia Promotions, uses a large percentage of local boys he has found himself. He has a pool of fighters and uses a modified rota system to decide who fights who, where, and how many times. They are frantically busy, and in the height of the season average three shows a week, travelling all over East Anglia.

Is it a paying business for the local boys? "They do all right. We're getting organised," he explained.

MONDAY MORNING by Bruce Robinson

He peeped through the door to check the size of the audience, and urged an apprehensive front row to move their seats nearer to the ring. "Won't they fall on us?" asked an elderly lady. "No, madam. They won't." And he gently shepherded them closer to the ropes.

First performance

"Of course," he said as we walked back to the cymbals, "we've never been here before. It's our first performance. We don't know much about the audience, whether they want villain or comedy."

How did he decide?

"The boys develop in their own way. I act as match-maker, and pair them off as best I can."

Ctd

As boys include, inevitably, some from away, but a number of locals, too—locals like Trevor Soames (O'nesby), Ken Nicholls (Caister), who calls himself "Hercules," Malcolm Roper (Sprowston), Martin Franklin (Yarmouth)—"Mr. TV Franklin" no less—Tony Nicholls (Caister), Graham Tubby (South Burlingham), and Brian's brother, John, otherwise "Gentleman John," because he enters the ring dressed like a gentleman.

Behind us, and nearer to the cymbals, "Young Vulcan" was pulling on his boots, the seconds were struggling into white tee-shirts and the announcer was changing his yellow tie for a black one. Someone fiddled with the curtain ropes, and for a fraction of a second they parted, but there was no reaction from the audience.

Trevors asked someone else to put out a cigarette—"because there are athletes about"—and began to look anxious because two of the fighters were late arriving. When the appointed time came and they had still not arrived, he decided upon a change in the order of the bouts.

Show went on

Then the auditorium lights flooded across the hall, the announcer announced, "dee dum diddle" thundered over the loudspeakers and "Young Vulcan" and Trevor Soames, led by their respective seconds, strode from behind the stage, zig-zagged their way through a gaggle of chairs and leapt purposefully into the ring.

During the first bout the missing fighters came in, as apprehensively as the audience had done, carrying their holdalls, skirting the back of the hall. They both looked young, well dressed and powerfully shouldered. Meanwhile the old folk, at first uncertain, but now relaxed, shuffled gaily in their chairs, and the show went on.

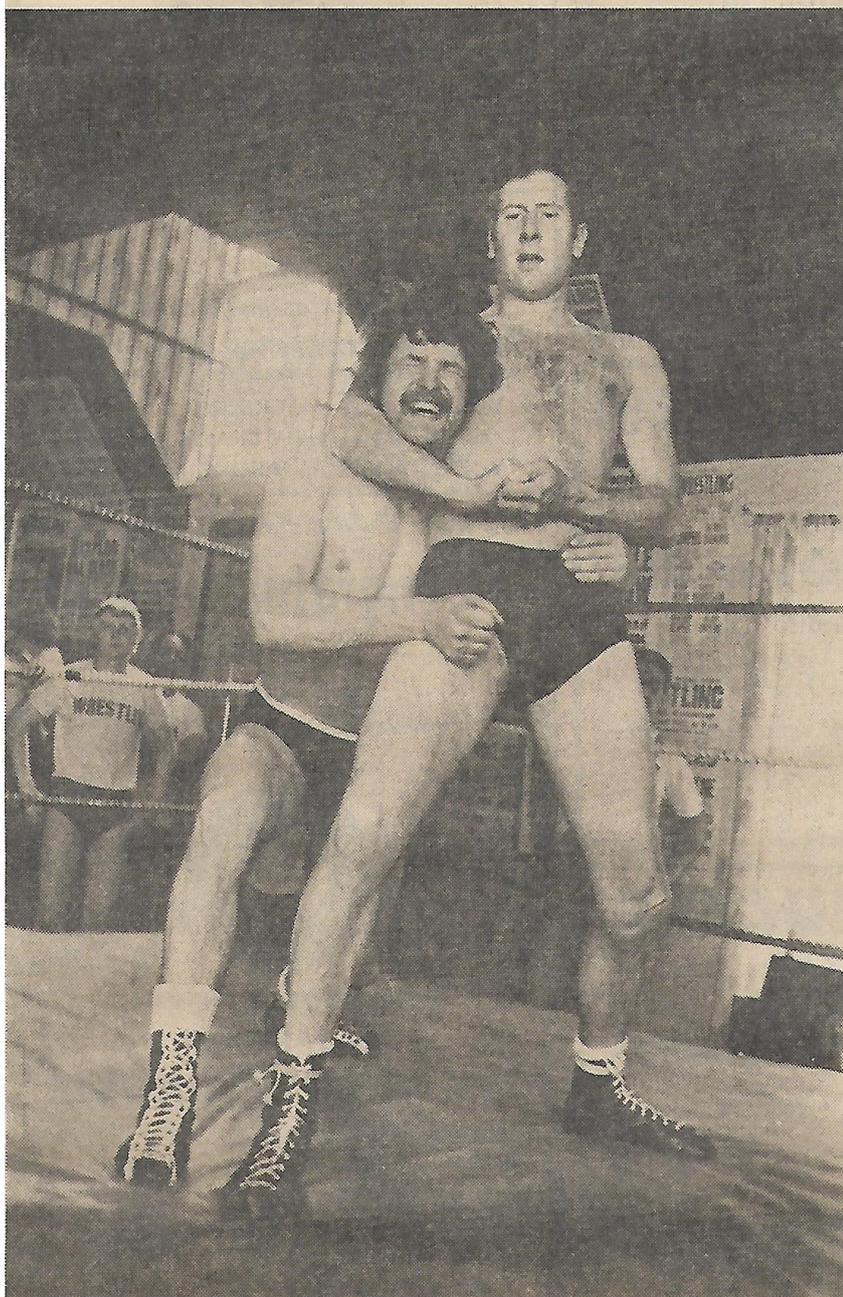
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And for wrestling fans with 25s. to spare, the show will go on for a great deal longer if they invest in "A Pictorial History of Wrestling," published by Spring Books and printed in Czechoslovakia. This prodigious 320-page epic contains 500 illustrations of exponents of the grunt and groan business from Milo and Maximian, through Muldoon and McLaughlin to Big Bill Miller and Mick McManus. Covering every aspect of the sport, it traces its history from Ancient Greece to the age of television, and will keep grappling enthusiasts enthralled for hours.

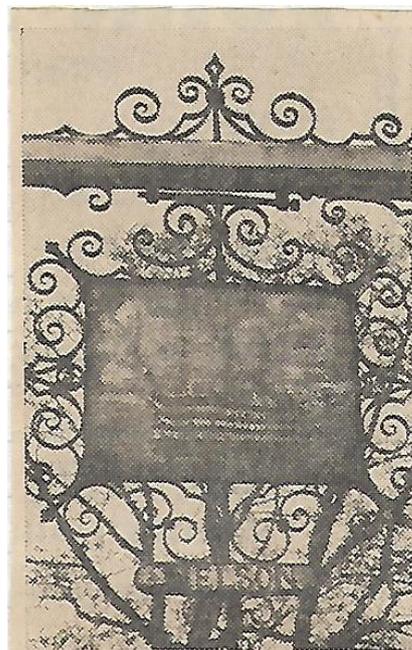
14) Eastern Daily Press May 12 1970

A picture feature looking at Anglia Promotions and its training regime

THE MEN WHO USE THE (HALF) NELSON



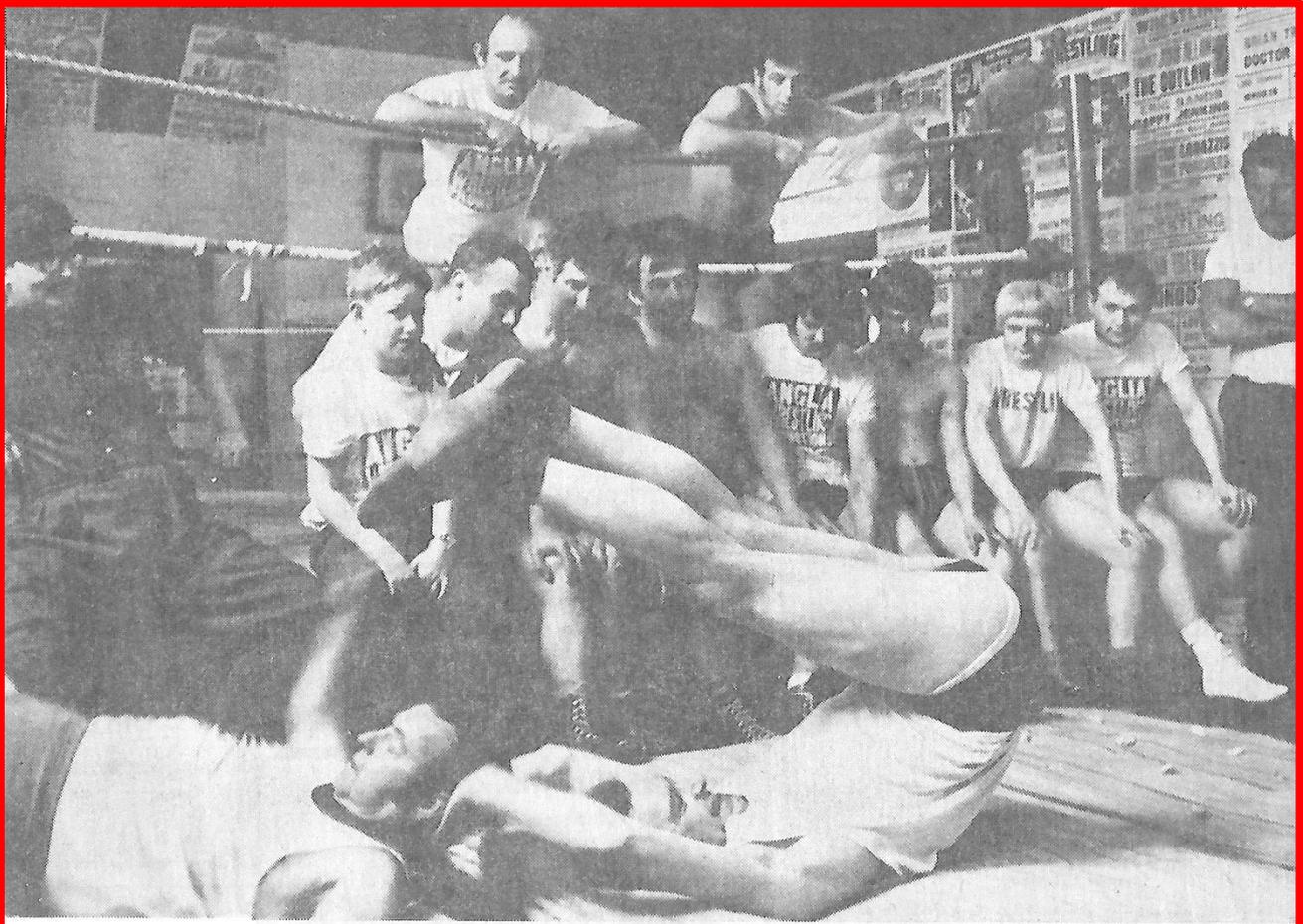
In the full-size ring, Swaffham school teacher Brian Davis and Ken Money, an engineer from King's Lynn, "enjoy" a practice bout.



The sign outside a thatched building by the side of the main road through Fleggburgh could be mistaken for that of an old inn, but locally it is known as being the former Coffee Tavern.

The sign reads Nelson and the picture depicting his flagship is now very faded. But the building is full of activity on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings throughout the year. It is the headquarters and gymnasium of the Fleggburgh Wrestling Club with a membership of over 50 keen professionals and amateurs under the leadership of the club founder, Brian (Bullock) Trevors, who is himself a professional wrestler well known throughout the British Isles. After training through the winter the club members have already opened their summer season of putting on wrestling programmes at fetes and galas, with regular weekly visits to holiday camps in and around Norfolk. An "E.D.P." Yarmouth staff photographer visited the gym during one of the training sessions to record the grappling scene.

Next Pics of Bad Bill Pye, Brian Cullingford and Maurice Scott ...



"Over you go" — Brian Cullingford and Maurice Scott, two Lowestoft wrestlers.



Bill Pye, of Lowestoft, in training.

Exceptions prove the rule, and here's an Anglia Promotions show that was outside Norfolk, at the Windmill Club, Kettering. Great to see Knowles Peters there, facing his old mate, Gorilla-cum-Bulldog Reg Ray. He was a fabulous ambassador for the game, but the "Wrestling Tonight" film credit is something of a mystery.

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING		WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th 68
WINDMILL CLUB, KETTERING		at 7.45 p.m. Presented by Anglia Promotions in association with Joe Wallis
INTERNATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CONTEST — 10 FIVE MINUTE ROUNDS		
Don (TV Star) MITCHELL Brother of Denis	V	AL MARTIN Southern Area Heavyweight Champion
GREAT MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST — 10 FIVE MINUTE ROUNDS		
BULLDOG REG RAY Wakefield. Original TV Bad Boy	V	KNOWLES PETERS Leeds. Winner of two Championship Belts. Outright Star of TV and the Film "Wrestling Tonight"
SENSATIONAL WELTERWEIGHT CONTEST — 6 FIVE MINUTE ROUNDS		
BRETT MARTIN Nottingham	V	MICK LA ROCHE Bermondsey
ROUGH HOUSE TAG TEAM AMERICAN STYLE CONTEST — 60 MINUTES DURATION		
PETE LA PAQUA Leicester	V	MICK COLLINS Ireland
AND JOHN HOWARD Leicester		AND RON MARINO Anglo Italian
TICKETS 10/-, 7/6, 5/- FROM WINDMILL CLUB — Telephone 5084 R. Ashby, Kettering 81712; T. Dryland, Kettering 81467; R. Craigs, Brigstock 260; J. Hart, Kettering 4283		

Wrestlers help Lynn charity

WILL DOCTOR DEATH BE UNMASKED?

IT LOOKS at though Saturday will be an interesting and exciting evening at Lynn Corn Exchange, where three single and one tag wrestling bouts have been organised.

About a thousand spectators are expected to watch the four matches, the proceeds of which are to go to Lynn's St Raphael Club.

Top of the bill will be a bout between Brian Trevors, who comes from Filby, near Yarmouth, and Doctor Death, a black-masked, undefeated wrestler from Hollywood, California.

Brian Trevors has built up quite a reputation, having beaten Mr. TV Jackie Pallo and Steve Logan, who is Mick McManus' tag partner. If Trevor beats Doctor Death, the latter has to remove his mask, which so far, has never happened.

The third bout is between Judo Pete Keen (Hartlepool) and Tiny De Mann. Keen is an expert in judo and karate, and Tiny De Mann's qualification is his weight — 22 st.

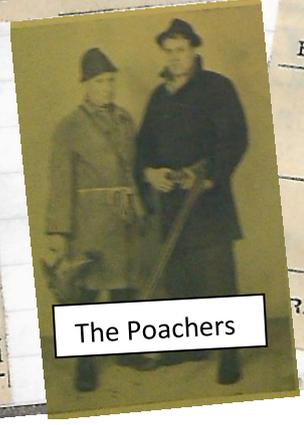
The final bout is one between Lord Thomas (London) and Hercules (Mombasa Kenya).

Sounds like a very colourful evening!

£50 SIDE STAKE

A side stake of £50 has been put up for the winners of the tag match between Billy Duke (Brighton) and Digger Summers and the Poachers. The cheque is to be presented by the Mayor of Lynn, Mr. H. C. Simpson.

The Poachers (Les Lunn and Bill Clark), are undefeated so far, and have appeared on television on several occasions.



The Poachers

15) All For Chari-dee

Wrestling promoters could be a philanthropic lot. Charity shows in the Fens in the late 60s didn't skimp on talent. The line-ups were very strong indeed. And here, indeed, is Brian Trevors topping the bill against a Doctor Death in aid of St Raphaels in Kings Lynn.

KING'S LYNN — CORN EXCHANGE

A CHARITY TOURNAMENT IN AID OF ST. RAPHAEL'S

WRESTLING

DOORS OPEN 7 p.m. SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1969 COMMENCING 8 p.m.

BRIAN TREVORS Filby, Norfolk Strongman	Heavyweight V.	DOCTOR DEATH Hollywood, U.S.A.
WELTERWEIGHT 8 x 5 LORD THOMAS Mayfair	V.	CATCHWEIGHT 8 v 5 JUDO PETE KEEN West Hartlepool
HERCULES Mombassa	V.	TINY DE MANN
TAG TEAM 40 min. THE POACHERS	V.	DIGGER SUMMERS Australia, and BILLY DUKE Brighton.

GAMES TOURS, 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-
1 New Conduit Street, King's Lynn.

CORN EXCHANGE - KING'S LYNN
 UNIVERSAL PROMOTIONS PRESENTS A CHARITY SHOW FOR ST. RAPHAEL'S
 All proceeds going to handicapped people in Norfolk

WRESTLING

Doors open 7.0 p.m. | **SATURDAY, MARCH 1st, 1969** | Commence 8.0 p.m.

Sensational International Contest 10 x 5
 The Return of Norfolk's own Strong Man

BRIAN TREVORS

FILBY, NORFOLK, v

DOCTOR DEATH

The Mystery Man from Hollywood, U.S.A.

MIDDLEWEIGHT SIZZLER 8 x 5 | **CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST** 8 x 5

LORD THOMAS The Gentleman of the ring v **JUDO PETE KEEN** West Hartlepool Judo Black Belt

HERCULES Mombasa v **TINY DE MANN** 22 Stone La-Savate Exponent

Return Tag-Team Grudge Match 40 minutes
 £50 TO THE WINNERS
 to be presented by His Worship The Mayor of King's Lynn

THE POACHERS ? ? v **DIGGER SUMMERS** Tattooed Australian now residing in King's Lynn

BILLY DUKE Brighton's Golden Boy

PRICES 10/- 8/- 6/- 4/-

Advance Booking at Frames Tours, New Conduit Street, King's Lynn

These Wrestlers from all over the world are giving up their own time for this Charity Show in aid of handicapped people of King's Lynn & District. Please give them your support!

© Alan Ltd, King's Lynn

Over in Peterborough in 1968, raising money for the Round Table Gala Day were Gentleman Jim Lewis, Jack Dempsey and Giant Jumbo ... and Sheik Abdul Singh (Mike Taylor) as the cabaret. The Peterborough Evening Telegraph was happy to give it coverage with pictures that included this great overhead view

DON'T MISS
 PETERBOROUGH ROUND TABLE



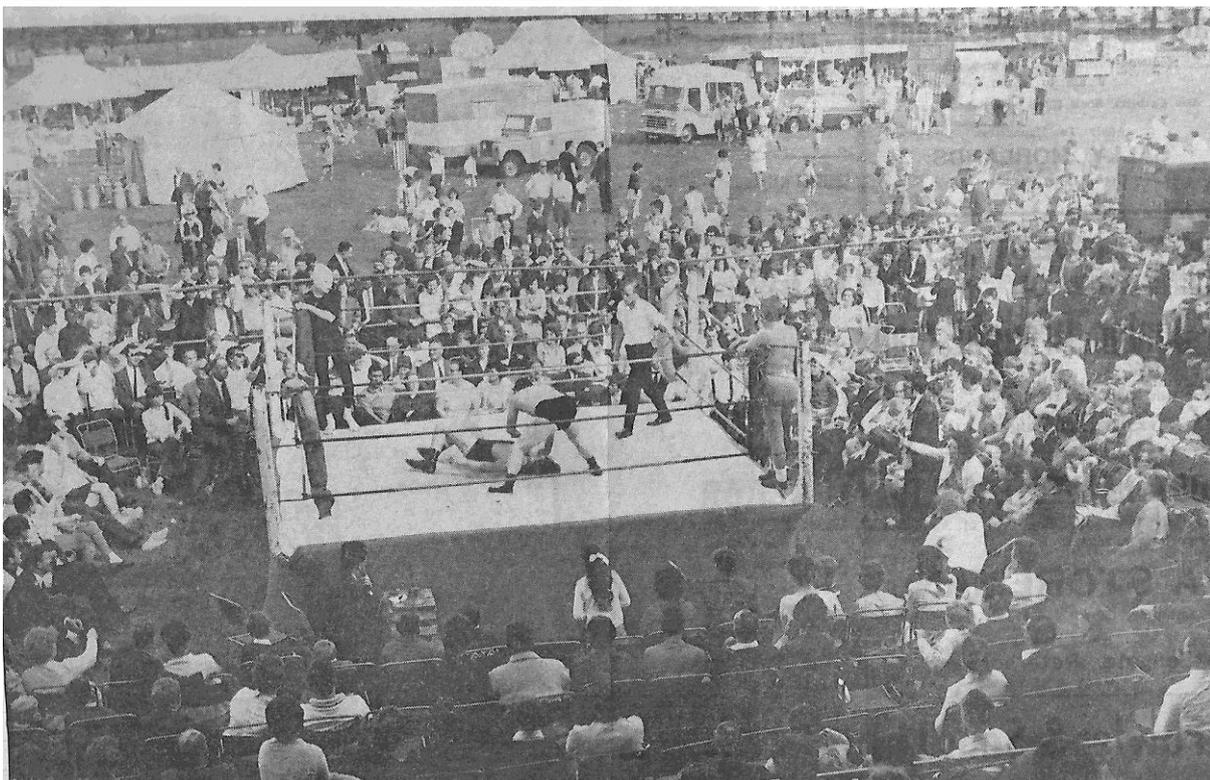
Gala DAY 68

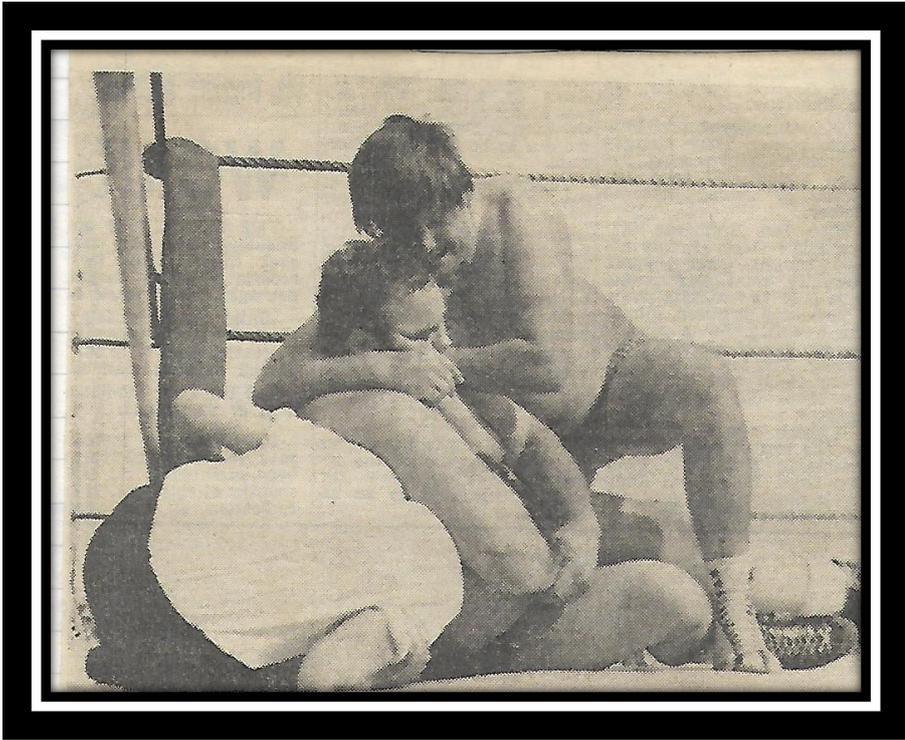
IT'S TOMORROW
 at the The Old Showground
 Peterborough

DONKEY DERBY • **LICENSED BARS**

WRESTLING
 JACK DEMPSEY Wigan TV celebrity v JIM LEWIS Manchester
 GIANT JUMBO 30-stone American v TREVOR McDONALD 18-stone farmer-wrestler
 AND OTHER BOUTS

Plus Cabaret Time **SHEIK ABDUL SINGH** Arab Yogist Wrestler As seen on television





From the Peterborough Round Table Gala Day, this fabulous shot shows The Ploughboy Trevor McDonald (mistakenly billed on posters as the Playboy!) with a headlock on Giant Jumbo ... who in turn has a headlock on Dave Valentine who had agreed to referee (maybe having a re-think here).

So ... from the Indies in the Fens we next turn our attention to the TV boys who dominated the scene in Kings Lynn, Spalding and Peterborough for many years during the late sixties. More Fen Fun ... this time with the backing of television.

to be continued