

January 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

JIMMY ATKINSON AND JOHN THOMLINSON ARE THE LATEST TO FEATURE IN THE 'DEATHS' COLUMNS

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

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Wednesday January 11th - 7.45pm - Junior Points Competitions at Carlisle Wrestling Club, Currock House, Lediard Avenue.

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Wednesday January 18th - 8.45pm - Carlisle Wrestling Club at Currock House.

Sadly two old wrestlers' names, each 79 years old, featured in the Deaths columns of the Cumberland News in the week before New Year; Jimmy Atkinson of Blackford and John Thomlinson of Raughton Head Farm.

I never saw John Thomlinson wrestle, but at Hethersgill in 1952 he felled WC Green of Gateshead in the final of the Under 15 Years Championship. His father, James, appears in the lists for the Heavy Weight Wrestling at the North East Coast Exhibition in 1929, when there were 678 entries divided into four weights. A special bus took all the athletes from the area to compete in the sports. The family interest in wrestling continued with John's son Robert winning the Under 18 Years Championship in 1985, and also with the annual treat when John and Frances organised a Dinner/Dance in the Gaitsgill Victory Hall to support Carlisle Wrestling Club. The hall was so small we could only eat OR dance, but not at the same time. Supper happened when the Bowmans arrived after milking, and trestle-tables were carried in from outside, and the food (marvellous) from the kitchen..... Happy Days!



I phoned up Peter Hunter about Jimmy Atkinson's death and he took me straight back in my mind to Brampton Show in 1955 when Jimmy was only 18, but a dangerous wrestler nevertheless. Local wrestler, Willie Forster was favourite to win and they duly met in the final. *"The trouble with Willie was that he didn't listen,"* said Peter. *"Divven't swing him,"* they all said, but Willie swung him, and paid the price...twice. Jimmy's footwork was sharp enough to take him to play football for Gretna, and to win five 10st Championships and eight at 10½ stones. His championship wins spanned thirty-two years, finally ending with the 10½st at Ambleside in 1987 when he felled Adrian Bland in the final. The likes of Gordon Younger and Raymond Rogerson put his successes in check for a while but he had a late surge, winning the 11st Grasmere title in 1985, 1986, and finally in 1991 when he was 54 years of age. He moved from his rural life in Blackford to live in the city of Carlisle and worked much of his life for the Waterboard.

**January 12<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**BRITTANY AND AUSTRIA TRIPS IN PLANNING STAGE - ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE MUCH**

**APPRECIATED**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**DATES:**

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**Wednesday January 18th - 8.45pm - Carlisle Wrestling Club at Currock House.**



Amongst the wind and stormy weather this week, there were stirrings of a new year of wrestling, both home and abroad. At home the wrestling mats in the gymnasium at Currock House were pounded with the first competitive wrestling of 2017 when the Carlisle Juniors had their first Points Night of the year. In that room were several wrestlers who will compete in Brittany and Austria in the coming months. Gemma Coulthard is booked in for her first trip to wrestle in Quimper, Brittany for the Breton Backhold Championships which are held on 4th March.

Thomas Gibson and Andrew Carlile look like being on the same aeroplane flying to Salzburg in Austria for the European Championships of the La Fédération Internationale des Luttes Celtiques which are held the 7th to 11th April.

The two events differ significantly as the Breton Championships is entirely down to individuals who wish to participate. The Austrian event is a matter of finding a team of seven wrestlers to represent our area.

The trips to Brittany and Austria are being co-ordinated by two of the Rothbury coaches, Darren Whitfield and Jason Davidson, with Jason taking on the harder task of raising a team for the European Championships. The provisional team, looks a good one, with excellent wrestlers throughout: Michael Kirkham of Waberthwaite (62kg), Andrew Carlile of Carlisle (68kg), Joe Hale, Rothbury (74kg), Jack Brown, Carlisle (81kg), Jack Hale, Rothbury (90kg), Thomas Gibson, Carlisle (100kg), and Jimmy Hall, Carlisle (+100kg). Add in Connie Hodgson, Kendal, double ladies champion this year, for the Women's event, held parallel to the men's, and we have an impressive contingent.

As always there are extra problems of expense when you take a team abroad, and the organisers are seeking financial support. In the meantime, at home, Connor Wharton was the only wrestler at the Carlisle Points Night to win more than one competition, and he was duly awarded the Best Performance Trophy.

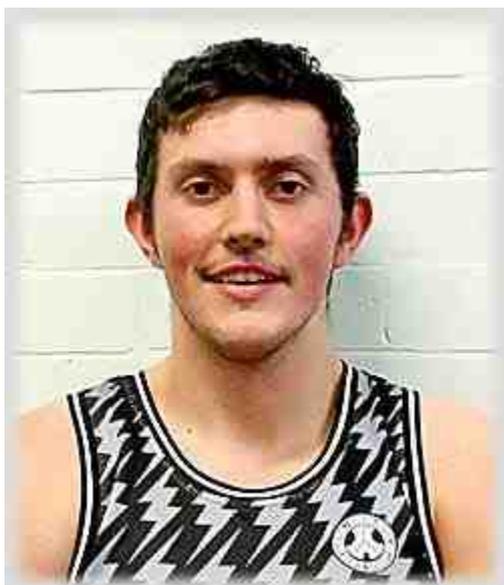
**Carlisle Wrestling Club - Junior Points for January**

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	T Coulthard	M Story	A Coulthard	
7 Stone	C Wharton	M Hodgson	T Coulthard	M Story
8½ Stone	C Wharton	J Wharton	M Hodgson	J Gibson
Girls 8½ Stone	P Bowman			
10 Stone	R Armstrong	M Hodgson	J Gibson	J Wharton
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	J Wharton	T Coulthard
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	M Hodgson	J Gibson
Girls Under 18 Years	G Coulthard	P Bowman		
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	G Coulthard	R Armstrong	M Wharton
Best Performance	Connor Wharton			

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**A FULL TEAM OF MEN FOR APRIL TRIP TO AUSTRIA BUT.....**

In these short dark days of January, little happens in the world of wrestling; but at the same time there's lots of bits and pieces in the air.

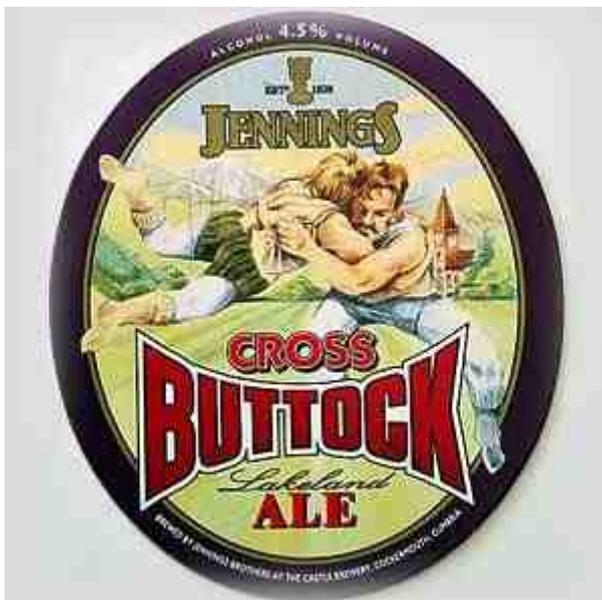


The Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night for January was a brief affair, with only a few wrestlers turning out. The most competitive section was the All Weights where two big lads battled it out. Jack Ewart won on the last day of the season at Wasdale Show, and continued his good form onto the mats where he leg-up buttocked Jimmy Hall to take the first place,

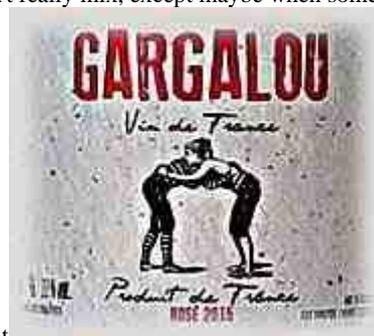
A large spectator at the edge of the mats was Thomas Gibson who would normally be in the thick of the action, but was victim of a Zimmer-frame accident earlier in the week which left him with a chipped bone. Apparently it had something to do with a Young Farmers Entertainment rehearsal and leap-frogging. The connection between the YFC movement and wrestling was made clear when the next Junior Points Night has had to be re-scheduled because at least six contenders would be involved with the Raughton Head Young Farmers' Production.

On the other hand club numbers will be boosted next week when Skelton Young Farmers will be on the mats to hone their wrestling skills in the run-up to the big YFC Field Day in May.

The latest news on the Austrian trip in April when a team will represent the Wrestling Association in the European Championships, is that there is a full team of seven men, but that double Champion Connie Hodgson has had to drop out because of work commitments. As part of her university course she is doing a study on females in wrestling, and wants to make contact with Barbara Prudham, as was before she married. Barbara was fully competitive amongst the lads in the 1980s before the rules changed to limit mixed wrestling. Can anyone provide a telephone number?



Alcohol and wrestling don't really mix, except maybe when some Dutch courage



is needed before entering for the local show, but a Breton friend of mine, Guy Jaouen, sent an image by email of a possible money-making venture for the sport. He had found a French wine with an image of back-hold wrestling on the label with the unfortunate name of "Gargalou". Perhaps we could add it to the calendars, DVDs and sportswear available next Christmas. In fact Jennings Brewery in 1998 did have Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling on one of its beers, when 'Cross-buttock Ale' became an occasional brew, with a spectacular label.

And, just this moment, as I sit typing this, a message came from the Rothbury coach, Darren Whitfield: "Hi Roger, Brittany, Ferry and coach booked."

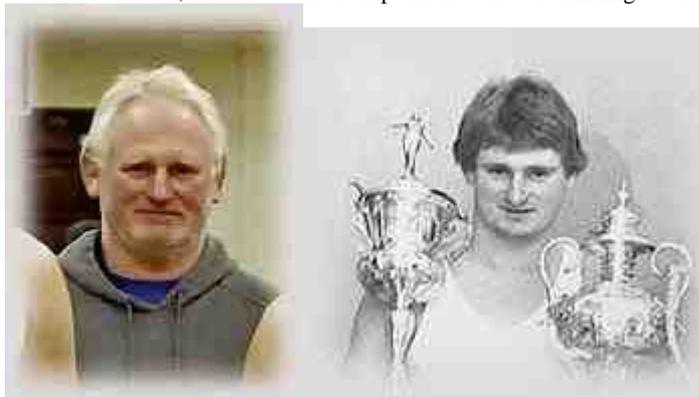
**The dark days suddenly seem brighter.  
Carlisle Wrestling Club - Senior Points for January**

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A Carlile	M Wharton		
13 Stone	A Carlile	M Wharton		
All Weights	J Ewart	J Hall	A Carlile	

**January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**LOCAL HERITAGE SPORTS EVENTS ARE LOW ON THE LIST FOR 'SPORT ENGLAND' FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**

The Zimmer-frame kamikaze man, Thomas Gibson, has had a welcome diagnosis from his doctor that his injury, sustained at a vigorous YFC Entertainment rehearsal, is not a break or chip and he can start thinking about hiping and hanking in Austria for the European Championships in



April.

Another piece of good news is that the Carlisle coach, Alan Jones, has given himself permission (he's self-employed) to take a break from work to support the team in Austria.

The main organiser, Rothbury coach, Jason Davidson, is a qualified arbitre or judge for the championships, and would not always be able to sit in the coach's seat, mat-side, to encourage the wrestler in action; so Alan Jones, that arch-strategist, is a welcome addition to the team.

Then of course, there is the matter of money: international travel and a team strip do not come cheap, so this is one of those occasions when Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling has to seek funding and sponsorship.

Usually, wrestling in this area is self-supporting. The Wrestling Association survives as a governing body on just over a thousand pounds a year generated by affiliation fees for events, personal membership, an end-of-season raffle and special efforts like Chris Bland's North Country Quiz. Officials and organisers for the sixty events are all amateurs in the best sense of the word, giving their time and effort freely for the love of the sport.

The local sponsorship of the prize-money at our local agricultural shows and sports meetings by individuals and local firms, often with an agricultural connection, is one of the strengths of our sport. But, our occasional sorties into the wider world are more difficult to fund. With 345 million pounds allocated to British Sport in the lead up to the Tokyo Olympics, our immediate financial problems seem surreally minuscule.

In the run up to the Beijing Olympics in 2008 British Wrestling received over £2m. For London 2012 the sum of £1.4m bought a Ukrainian born wrestler who secured her British passport months before competing for us, only to go out in a preliminary round. For Rio 2016 British Wrestling received nowt, although "Sport England has invested £850,000 in the sport over the next four years in order to support wrestling at local level and help develop talent". Not in Rothbury, nor Carlisle, Kendal, Milnthorpe and Waberthwaite, they didn't. Although British Wrestling is charged by its world body to support traditional wrestling, there is nil contact.

Yet maybe it is better this way: we are a minority sport that survives and flourishes in its own fashion, independent and self-sufficient, with a proud heritage that pre-dates many of these upstart highly-funded sports by centuries.

On the other hand, I hope that local businesses or local authority funds may come to the support of our international team as it readies itself to represent this area in the European Championships of La Fédération Internationale des Luttes Celtiques (FILC) in Austria, in April.

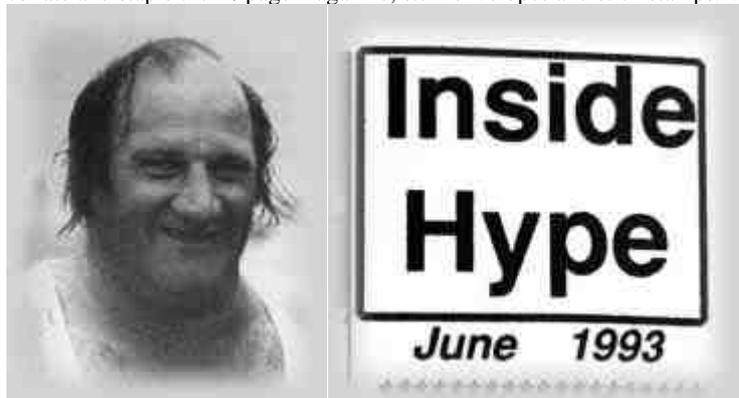
**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

#### **A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE CWWA FOR THE SUPPORT OF SOME LOCAL BENEFACTORS**

As I sit typing this wrestling article, isolated in my rural garret, miles from the bustling offices of the Cumberland News, I sometimes wonder if anyone actually reads my words. Last week, though, I had startling proof that all is well. My article on the funding of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, as compared to the mega-millions spent on Olympic sport has had a direct response. Linda Scott, Chairman of the Wrestling association emailed me: "Your article has done the trick! Alan Jones has a local lady turn up at his door with €150 donation and my Managing Director is writing a cheque for £500 from WCF." Such a response gives one of those little boosts that reaffirm that all the effort by coaches, officials and organisers is quietly recognised.

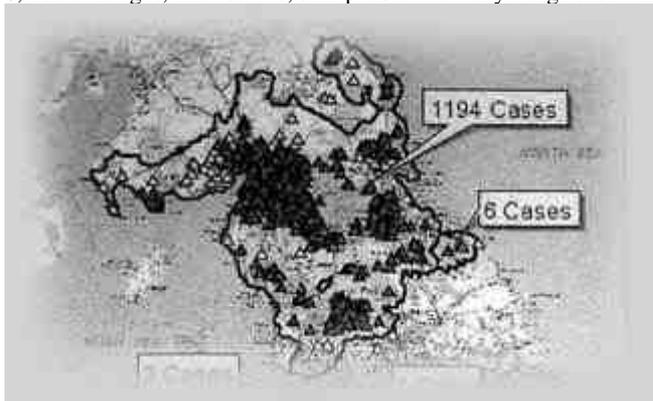
Actually a third benefactor was also energised by the article: me. For years I've had money hanging about in a Building Society account doing nothing, and just gaining thruppence a year in interest. From 1993 to 2001 I produced a fanzine for wrestling called "Inside Hype"....an inside-hipe being one of our throws, and me, an insider, hyping the sport. My original inspiration was my son, Simon's role in the Carlisle United fanzine "Cumberland Sausage", which I think also involved Cumberland News reporter and feature writer, Roger Lytolis.

A fanzine could be scruffy, unprofessional and idiosyncratic, which suited me. The uncertain readership did not justify commercial production, so it became a cottage industry each month of the wrestling season. Early on I warned readers: "Do not read this magazine in the bath or in the rain" as the ink was not waterproof until I bought a laser-printer specially. Each month family and friends gathered round the table-tennis table to collate and staple the 16 page magazine; stuff envelopes and stick stamps. We had around 150 subscribers, so it took a bit of time to sort.



The serious side of the first edition the magazine had a list of the next month's events, my four articles for the Cumberland News, articles on the international scene and the laws of taking hold. But it also had a page three pin-up...of Wilf Brocklebank; a letters page with one letter from George Steadman complaining that suspenders were no longer part of the wrestling strip, and another from my mother complimenting me on my "incredibly good writing and design. Now stop playing on that computer and come for your tea".

Simon wrote a list of "10 ways to tell if you are obsessed with wrestling" which included:  
"4, You get stopped on the M6 doing 120mph attempting to get from Bellingham to Broughton on the same day;  
6, The bandages, knee braces, shin pads etc actually weigh more than you do;



10, Your name is Tom Harrington."



The magazine ground to a sad halt in 2001. The July edition had a map of the UK on the front page with the heading "The wrestling season so far". It was a map of Foot and Mouth slaughtering: 1194 in our area and still rising. One last edition in November that year summed up the season with only eight events taking place. I always thought that the money in the Inside Hype account belonged to wrestling rather than to me so when I finish this I will send a cheque for £476. 98 to the CWWA secretary. This week the Currock House Gym, Carlisle, was heaving with the regular wrestlers boosted by Wigton and Longtown Young Farmers. Next week many of the regulars will be in the Carnegie Theatre Workington as part of the YFC Entertainment competition. As a result the Junior Points Night scheduled for that night will take place instead on the 15th February.

## February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

**GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO BE GIVEN FOR THE LAKE DISTRICT'S WORLD HERITAGE SITE APPLICATION**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**DATES:**

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**Wednesday February 15th - 7.45pm - Double Points Night (Junior and Senior) at Carlisle Wrestling Club.**



A news item this week, as part of the visit to Cumbria by the Defra Minister, Andrea Leadsom, confirmed that the bid to gain World Heritage Site status for the Lake District would receive government support. As the accolade can be conferred by UNESCO for both natural and cultural elements or a mixture of the two, I wondered if Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling had any place in the bid.

The nearest World Heritage Sites to us are the Roman Wall and Durham Cathedral, and it is easy to see how an individual special building or a piece of human endeavour which has made a big impression on the landscape would qualify. The sites in the UK which qualify for the status because of natural qualities are limited to the Giant's Causeway in Ireland and the Jurassic Coast in Dorset and Devon. So how does the Lake District fit into all this?



The Lake District National Park Partnership has produced a remarkable document in support of its bid to "celebrate the identity, inspiration and conservation of the Lake District". The document is so substantial with its photographs and detailed analysis that it is divided into more than twenty sections to download on a computer.

There are two main thrusts of the material: the natural wonder of the area; and the impact of the farming community on its development. So where does our traditional wrestling fit into all this? Farming has produced field patterns, distinctive buildings and special sheep breeds. Wrestling, on the other hand is completely ephemeral.

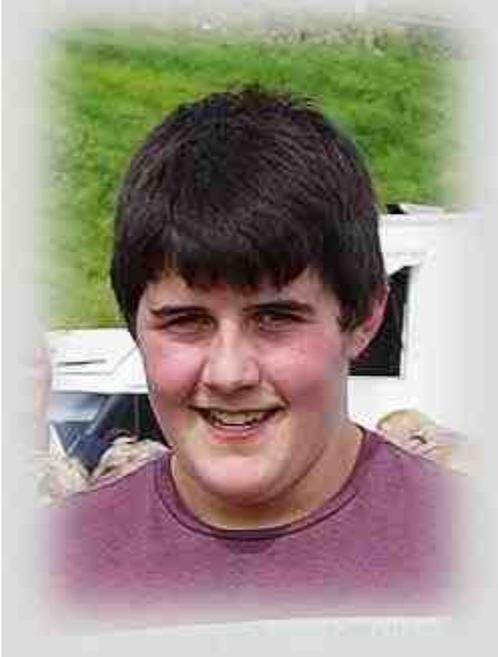
I like to quote the example of the Torver wrestling. We arrive to find a small white peg on a grassy knove which says "C&W Wrestling. A bag of sawdust marks out a ring. Cars arrive, a table is set up ring-side, a speaker system is delivered; entries are taken, the crowd assembles and the wrestling begins with Coniston Old Man in the background. For the best part of two hours wrestlers from Kendal, Milnthorpe, Carlisle and Waberthwaite keep the crowd entertained with the action.

The prizes are given, the crowd disperses, and by evening all that remains of some vibrant wrestling are a few grains of sawdust in the grass.

"Shepherds' Meets/Shows and traditional sports" are mentioned, and a picture of wrestling is included in the document. Thirteen valleys have detailed analysis, and nine of them host important wrestling events, but we have to be realistic that our contribution to the local heritage is difficult to grasp and quantify. There is nowhere to stick a plaque on Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling.

## February 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

### CARLISLE CLUB - FEBRUARY POINTS NIGHT



Last week I saw Thomas Gibson in a wheelchair, his eyes peeping out from a swathe of bandages round head and face. This week he was unbeaten on the wrestling mats at Currock house Gym in both Junior and Men's Points competitions. The transformation was possible because the first view of him was on the stage of the Carnegie Theatre, Workington in a mad dance routine as part of Raughtonhead Young Farmers' entertainment production for a YFC national competition. A month ago he had actually injured a leg by tripping over a zimmer frame, and had been unable to compete in the previous Points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club.

For size and skill there is no-one to match him in the Under 18s at club level and he duly celebrated by swinging younger brother John in the final fast and long like a helicopter landing. The All Weights in the men's event was a different matter because there was serious opposition,



especially from Jack Ewart and David Barnes. In the round-robin he felled Jack Ewart with a

straightforward back-heel where he followed him closely and carefully down to the mat.

By the time he and David Barnes met, it was the deciding fall for the competition. Barnes went for his killer hank which has done so much damage in the Northern rings, but Thomas Gibson was quick enough to twist before it took effect.

Thomas Gibson's young cousin, Charlie Armstrong from Broomhills, near Longtown, had benefited the previous week by the mass exodus of wrestling club members to the YFC event at Workington, for he chose that quiet night to come along to the club for the first time, and received plenty of practice and coaching. That was rewarded week later when he competed for the first time in the 6 stones group and reached the final with another Longtown lad, Toby Coulthard. The two of them took four holds before a decision was reached. Toby was forcing the pace but Charlie defended well and won the day with a twist by the neck. As a result he was awarded the best performance cup for February.

The junior wrestling was notable for the number of times John Gibson and Matty Hodgson wrestled each other with such tension and intensity, so that the referee, Rachael Marston, was on constant safety duty at the edge of the ring.

(Written by Roger Robson ..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2017})

### Results - February Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	C Armstrong	T Coulthard	M Story	A Coulthard
7 Stone	M Hodgson	J Wharton	H Bowman	T Coulthard
8½ Stone	J Gibson	M Hodgson	T Coulthard	J Wharton
Girls 8½ Stone	P Bowman			
10 Stone	J Gibson	M Hodgson	C Armstrong	J Wharton
Under 12 Years	J Wharton	M Story	H Bowman	T Coulthard
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	M Hodgson	J Gibson
Ladies Open	G Coulthard	P Bowman		
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	J Gibson	G Coulthard	M Wharton
Best Performance	Charlie Armstrong			
<b>MEN'S POINTS</b>				
11½ Stone	A Carlile	M Wharton		
13 Stone	A Carlile	M Wharton		
All Weights	T Gibson	D Barnes	J Ewart	A Carlile

## February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017

### NEXT STOP BRITTANY

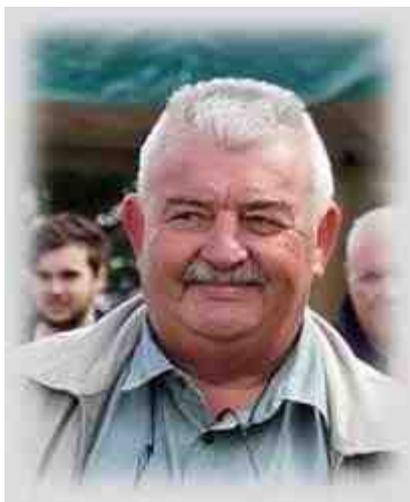
Next week I shall attend the best supported Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling competition of the whole of 2017. One hundred and seventy wrestlers, young and mature, male and female will compete in a myriad of categories. Sadly, or perhaps wonderfully, this event will take place hundreds of miles south of Shap Summit, for I shall be in Quimper, Brittany, for the Breton Backhold Championship, or as they call it "L'Internationaux de Back-hold".

I once drove all the way in my car to take Russell Housby to compete in the event and we struggled through Breton snowdrifts to get there. This year should be much more convivial and less exhausting, for I shall be hitching a lift with the luxury coach from Rothbury. Thirty-nine people will be on board: twenty-five competitors; of which eighteen are from the Rothbury Club, two from Carlisle and two from Waberthwaite. They will all attend a training session on the evening of Friday 3rd March in Quimper, and then compete in the big Sports Hall there the next day. In addition, fourteen supporters will be there, too.

Such an outing does wonders for the team spirit of our wrestling, bringing youngsters together in a way that was un-thought of in my youth. It



also adds an extra interest and aim for our wrestlers, and widens their horizons.



The other great benefit is the sporting and social contact with the Bretons which is great for its own sake but also adds an extra dimension to our wrestling calendar at the end of August. In 1985 four Breton wrestlers competed here at Dalston Show and Desoglin. Guy Jaouen, the instigator and inspiration for the international competition, felled the mighty Mike Hayton in the final of the Novices. The Breton visitors continued in a haphazard way every year after that, and then Christian Salaun, with his three gifted sons, began a regular and more organised sally each year, sometimes with two mini-bus loads of wrestlers to boost entries at the busiest time of our season. For many years they camped at my farm for the duration, which was grand when the sun shone, but two soaking wet years, gave them and us pause for thought; Josie Brown, Darren Whitfield and Robin Murray organised roofs over their heads in the following years and that continues to this day. What built up over the years was a mutual benefit society which enhanced the wrestling skills and experience of the wrestlers, boosted our events, and built up a network of friendship and camaraderie.

Thank you, Christian... à bientôt... I'll see you next week.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

**WRESTLING CLUBS ROUND - UP.**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**The Wrestling Week:**

**VIDEO**

**Saturday March 4th - Brittany Backhold Championships**

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**Mondays Waberthwaite Academy 6.30 to 8.30pm at Waberthwaite Village Hall.**

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**Wednesdays Rothbury Academy 6.30 for Under 10s; 7.30 for the rest at Dr Thomlinson Middle School**

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**Carlisle Wrestling Club 7.45 onwards in the Gym at Currock House, Lediard Avenue.**

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**Thursdays Milnthorpe Academy 7.00 to 8.15 in The Junior Football Pavilion, Milnthorpe**

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**Fridays Kendal Academy 7.30 onwards in Burneside Cricket Pavilion**

The evenings are lighter, the summer wrestling season gently approaching and the time on the academy mats is dwindling. Already, the Waberthwaite Open Night is fixed for Saturday April 8th, and a week later Carlisle Wrestling Club will be bouncing high and presenting Points Trophies at the Energy trampoline centre in Carlisle.

The time seemed right to ring around the academy coaches to see how the winter training sessions had gone. The general theme seems to be that there are plenty of wrestlers but the age range has decreased. At Waberthwaite Academy a sort of grass-roots revolution has taken place in the wake of Tom Porter's health problems. For years Tom was Mr Waberthwaite Academy: he revived it when it seemed long defunct after the post-War enthusiasm, and sustained it for years as the central organiser. Without him there would have been no Academy.

Now it is all change and a complete contrast: the officials and coaches are young, active wrestlers; more like a dynamic wrestling commune than the archetypal academy; and Tom Porter smiles benignly over the club he rescued and developed.



Typical of the new coaches is Michael Kirkham. Not yet twenty he acts as coach and role model. He is on the bus for Brittany this week-end and will be in the CWWA team in Austria in April. When Tom Porter visited the club recently Michael and others were kitted out with "rocheds" (Breton wrestling jackets) and going through their paces.

David Parsons' Milnthorpe Academy is very much dependent on him and could have foundered because of a health problem, but heart surgery has given man and club a wonderful boost. The club has always been the smallest of our academies, but it was great to hear the enthusiasm for his "heap of little'uns" and their introduction into the wrestling rings of South Cumbria in the summer to come.



John Wilson, the Kendal Academy coach, enthuses, too, about "lots of young ones", "families coming together to wrestle", "past tiddlers coming on and turning out". He does much of the coaching himself, but he enthused about the contribution of Hannah Hodgson who is "a good hand...forward...in at the deep end."

Carlisle Wrestling Club with its three great champion coaches, Alan Jones, Andrew Carlile and Tom Harrington, is also strongest at the younger end. In addition the springtime surge of young farmers preparing for their Field Day, gives strength and purpose to the club.

No-one from Rothbury answered my calls, but the evidence of the roster for the trip to the Breton Backhold Championships, indicates a club in fine fettle with a good range of ages, big numbers and a good cohort of lasses.

One thing each academy has in common is the warm welcome they would give to any visitor who fancies having a go, or just wants to watch.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> 2017**

## INTERNATIONAUX DE BACKHOLD IN QUIMPER

### NEWS UPDATES

#### **Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> - Carlisle Wrestling Club - Final Men's Points Night.**

A wonderful confusion surrounded the Internationaux de Backhold in Quimper. For fifteen years I have attended the event and still I watch the wrestling in all its fullness in an existential daze. Anne-Marie at the table with the microphone, bilingual in French and English, keeps the three wrestling mats full of competitors and officials, but with twenty-six categories for male wrestlers and twelve for females, all wrestling in a twin-pool-system, cross-ties and finals, clarity is a non-starter.

Instead, you see a Northumbrian on pallenn deux and focus on that out-come; then there's a kilted Scot on pallenn quatre and you support her. Ewen Salaun, Tudy le Meur or Matthieu le Dour work their wrestling magic as they have done at Grasmere or Ennerdale or Rothbury. Handshakes and kisses aplenty arrive for me and my wife ring-side from wrestlers and officials, young and old.



And then, far into the evening, you realise that Jack Hale in the Open All Weights finale is constantly winning, constantly collapsing with injury, and then rising from the near dead to compete in the next round of the last competition. It's hipe, hipe, hipe all the way, until he shocks himself with a back-heel...but only once.

Then he is in the final, the last bout of the day with a cunning, powerful Austrian, but with a swish and a swagger he launches his man up and around and down with a thump. The patient crowd of attentive hours cheer the foreigner with his improbable win. Jack Hale may have only been third in the championship, but he had beaten all-comers and was awarded the trophy for the best performance in a manic day of hundreds of bouts.



Memory flashes: Max Bates, the smallest wrestler in the arena, gets in a late twist to win the day; siblings Anna and William Hindmarsh, from the middle of nowhere in the Cheviots, win gold; Wabertwaite Academy's Michael Kirkham, lighter than anyone in the senior ranks, pushes the Breton Thomas Kerebel, last year's European Champion, to the limits; three Rothbury wrestlers, Zak Singleton, Jordan Brown and Frazer Cansfield swamp the medals in the Cadets 74kg+ section; our Scottish friend Fraser Hirsch and daughter Lilly both win gold medals in big classes; grand-daughter Gemma Coulthard finds power and direction to beat Sophie Rorrison in the deciding bout; and Mark Wharton makes it a good day for Nelson Tomlinson School, Wigton, when he too wins a gold medal.

The organisation and hospitality was great. Many thanks to Darren Whitfield, the Rothbury organiser for getting us there and back safely; and big thanks to Dominique Barrière and his Skol Kemper team who have organised five international championships with attention to detail and good humour. Vive l'entente cordiale.



**Brittany Backhold Champions:**

**Max Bates, William Hindmarsh, Mark Wharton, Anna Hindmarsh, Gemma Coulthard, Zak Singleton.**

**Winner of the Men's Open Competition: Jack Hale**

**Best Wrestler of the Tournament: Jack Hale**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**EWART CLINCHES THE ALL WEIGHTS TITLE**

**NEWS UPDATES**

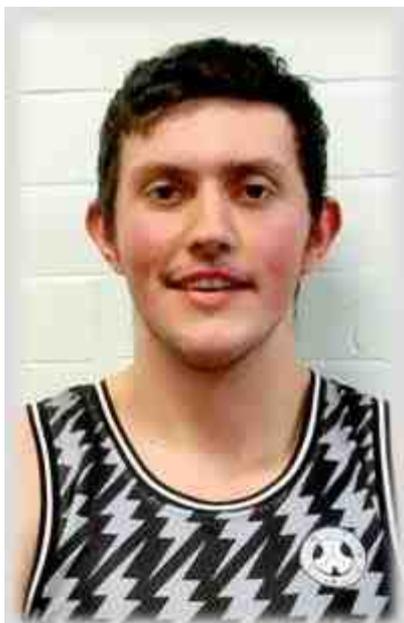
**Saturday April 1st - 10am**

## **ANGUS BACKHOLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP**



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**Saturday April 8th - 7.30pm [Waberthwaite Village Hall Open Night \(click for details\)](#)**



Jack Ewart of Westward, near Wigton, first attended Carlisle Wrestling Club in 1998, and for many years has been the most regular attendee. Every week as the junior training is in full swing, his tall frame wanders into the Currock House Gymnasium, music plugged into his ears, to take up his regular corner before wrestling. At twenty-five years of age he drives himself now, but in the past he had to rely on his father and British Rail.

A typical Wednesday night would include a four mile run to Wigton Station, another run from Carlisle Station to Currock House, and then the wrestling, before his father took pity on him and picked him up at the end of the night.

He had a particularly cheerful drive home this week because he had clinched the Men's All Weights Points Trophy with the final bout of the season. At the start of the night Jack was two points behind Thomas Gibson after the previous four monthly sessions. On this occasion Thomas lost his falls against Jimmy Hall and Jack Ewart in the round-robin pool, while Ewart went unbeaten through all his bouts.

This meant that when all the points were added up the two men were equal and had to wrestle again to decide the matter. Because of the round robin system, all the men's bouts are decided by a single fall – "sudden death". The tension and effort was at its highest as the two wrestlers circled the edge of the mat. Thomas Gibson saw his chance and took Ewart away on an inside-hipe which looked like the clincher. Somehow Ewart got his feet to the ground and immediately twisted to bring Gibson down to the mat for a good, clean fall which left the judges redundant.

Unfortunately, in the social wrestling that took place after the main event, Jimmy Hall injured his knee badly. We hope he mends fast.



The previous week had seen the conclusion of the Junior Points Competitions, and was notable for the number of younger and lighter wrestlers who turned out. John Gibson was on top form and was awarded the Best Performance Trophy

after winning three categories. Jonathan Wharton, too, had a good night for he started off in second place in both the 7 stones and the Under 12 Years, but overhauled the others to put his name on both trophies for the 2016-17 Indoor Season.

A pause might be expected between Winter action and the start of the Summer Season, but it's all action in the next month. On April 1st the Angus Backhold Championships are held in Carnoustie Leisure Centre, with plentiful categories and a hearty invitation. The CWWA team will be in Austria from 7th April for the European Championships. Meanwhile back at the West Cumbrian ranch, Waberthwaite Academy hosts its Open Night on 8th April, pie and pea supper and all. Then on the 15th April Carlisle Wrestling Club goes to the Energi Trampoline Park to let off steam and present trophies.

(Written by Roger Robson ..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2017})

### March Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	T Coulthard	Jack Gibson	C Armstrong	A Coulthard
7 Stone	John Gibson	J Wharton	A Coulthard	C Armstrong
8½ Stone	John Gibson	Jack Gibson	J Wharton	P Bowman
Girls 8½ Stone	P Bowman	K Coulthard		
10 Stone	John Gibson	J Wharton	Jack Gibson	P Bowman
Under 12 Years	J Wharton	H Bowman	Jack Gibson	C Armstrong
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	P Bowman	John Gibson	J Wharton
Girls Open	P Bowman	K Coulthard		
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	John Gibson	M Wharton	P Bowman
Best Performance	John Gibson			

### March Senior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
All Weights	J. Ewart	T.Gibson	J.Hall	A. Carlile

#### (Juniors)

6st, Toby Coulthard; 7st - Jonathan Wharton; 8½st - John Gibson; Girls 8½st - Polly Bowman; 10st - John Gibson; Under 12 Years - Jonathan Wharton; Under 15 Years - Mark Wharton; Girls Open - Gemma Coulthard; Under 18 Years - Thomas Gibson.

#### (Seniors)

11½st - Andrew Carlile; 13st - Andrew Carlile; All Weights - Jack Ewart.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

**JIMMY PRINGLE FROM ROTHBURY IS ELECTED AS THE NEW CWWA PRESIDENT**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday April 1st - 10am**

## ANGUS BACKHOLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP



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**Saturday April 8th - 7.30pm Waberthwaite Village Hall Open Night (click for details)**



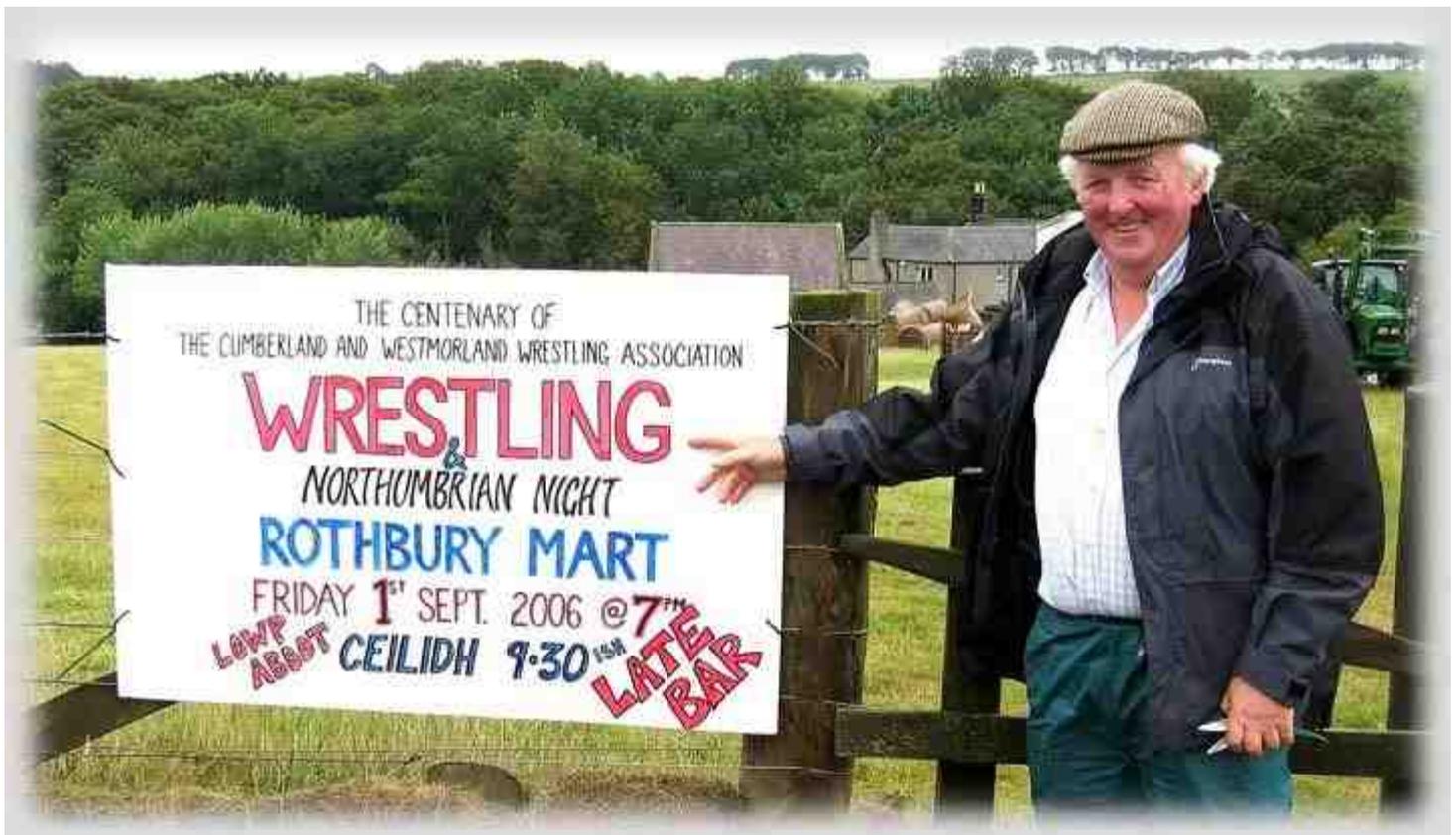
The Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association has a new President, from Northumberland: Jimmy Pringle of Rothbury.



His own wrestling career lasted thirty years beginning when Tom McKay bet him a tanner that he would not compete at Whittingham Games, and ending with a last haad at Alwinton Show thirty years ago. He had been part of the exciting and chaotic time of Thropton Academy that picked up where Harbottle Academy had left off. I remember spraining my ankle on the coconut mats in the village hall of this nowhere village in darkest Northumberland, but at one time they held five world championships with the likes of Alan and Kenny Davidson, Gordon and Eddie Younger and Raymond Rogerson. Jock Hall was in at the start, but when he left there was general anarchy and a sudden raffle to pay off two year's rent for the hall.



Geordie Davidson, Powderhall sprinter, professional high-jump champion, and helicopter-style wrestler, was then "the main man". He took the lads off to the Highland Games and Cumberland for fun and excitement and Jimmy lapped it up. Thropton, despite its successes, foundered, and there was a gap until Jimmy started a wrestling youth club in the Jubilee Hall, Rothbury. That kept things rolling but Jimmy's work took him away from home for long periods so the club had its ups and downs. I remember, though, that when Ted Duglinson, Tom Harrington and I were starting up Carlisle Wrestling Club in the 1970s, it was Jimmy Pringle who was the main man to contact to get things done in Northumberland.



In his work he has always been a sort of mega-foreman, the man who keeps the architects sensible and the workforce fully involved and occupied, at the likes of the Metro Centre and other big projects round the country. I thought he was retired, but found out that he has twenty-four bricklayers in his charge at the moment.

He admits that he is "rough and ready", but that is his talent, for he is a man of action, organising, finding sponsors, phoning the wrestlers to get them into the ring. He feels that there has been a pause in the impetus of our wrestling after the modernisation process led by a development committee which brought in coaching qualifications, first-aid courses, safety standards and the like. He wants "to liven things up".

He has his pet hates: balloon races that dump themselves in the ring at Alwinton, terrier races that do the same, and teachers. But despite it all he is a diplomat, but just not of the Whitehall, Foreign Office variety, if "ye knaa whatta mean".

**March 30<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE QUIET REVOLUTION IN THE CWWA**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday April 1st - 10am**

**ANGUS BACKHOLD  
WRESTLING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



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**Saturday April 8th - 7.30pm Waberthwaite Village Hall Open Night (click for details)**

A simple unanimous decision at the recent AGM of the Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association doubled the number of female categories in the Academy Shield competition. When the Shield first electrified inter-academy wrestling after the Second World War, there was

no thought of women competing, and in its second format introduced in the 1970s that omission continued. In the next Academy Shield there are classes for females at 8st, 10st, 12st and All Weights.

When the first rule book of the Wrestling Association was drawn up in 1906, there was no thought that women would participate in wrestling so there was no mention of gender. In 1895 public opinion was divided about whether "Bicycle Suits" were allowable for women, and generally the prudish, masculine attitude meant that women were constantly shackled by impossibly long skirts

Only in the 1960s did the first extremely rare women enter for our wrestling, because nothing in the laws stopped them. In the 1980s two factors led to change: Scottish women wrestlers and our own Barbara Prudham who competed on equal terms with the lads.

My son, Simon remembers: *"Barbara was a regular at Carlisle Wrestling Club in the early to mid 1980's when her brothers David and especially William were both attending. Barbara was a couple of years older than me and William but was similar in size and weight. She was stronger than we were and she specialised in turning us in on her right side and picking us up and back in one clean movement. At the club we would wrestle round the mat with winner stays on and she was often the wrestler next to me, Robert Thomlinson and Craig Todd. We were quite used to her and thought nothing of the fact she was a girl... I seem to remember her being picked for the academy Shield team for Carlisle and we as a club thought of her as something of a secret weapon who would win us some points. She was very much part of the wrestling family. The reaction of the opposition was often a mixture of nervousness and amusement at the thought that a girl was wrestling!"*

That nervousness led to a change in the rules and mixed wrestling was banned. That in turn led to the development of special classes for girls and they increased in number and prize-money; Grasmere leading the way with four female classes and prizes commensurate with the male purses.



Another development was the return to mixed wrestling for all classes under 12 years, in line with other sports like football. And last year saw the first Ladies World Championships.



Alongside this slow and quiet evolution, women became more involved with organisation of the sport. In the latter half of the 20th Century Dorothy Clarke led the way as someone who set the standard for the way the ring-side table was run.

Now we have Linda Scott in her fourth year as CWWA Chairman, and the administrative role of Secretary/Treasurer is shared by Rachael Marston and Gillian Gibson. Their conscientious, efficient and calm attitude means that Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling is in good hands.

With the European Championships scheduled for April 7th, a knee injury has forced Jimmy Hall to withdraw, so his place as the Heavyweight of the team is now vacant, as is his seat on the plane to Austria. Any interested?

**April 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE CWWA CONTINGENT HEADS FOR AUSTRIA THIS WEEKEND**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday April 8th - 7.30pm Waberthwaite Village Hall Open Night (click for details)**

International wrestling beckons this week-end, when a strong contingent of wrestlers and officials will represent the Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association at the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling's European Championships in Austria.

A full team consists of seven wrestlers in weight categories from -62kg to super-heavies who have to weigh more than 100kg. Until two weeks ago we had the rare prospect of a full team of wrestlers, but our heaviest wrestler, Jimmy Hall, injured a knee in an innocuous practice bout on the Carlisle mats, so once more a team win is unlikely. Austria, Brittany, Leon from Northern Spain, and Sardinia all have strong and complete teams, but we are on a par with Iceland who are short of a lightweight, and Scotland misses two categories. In addition there are three wrestlers from the USA.

There are also classes for women with potentially six in each team, but only the Bretons are complete, though the Icelanders are only missing a single wrestler at -50kg, the lightest weight.



Our team consists of Michael Kirkham of Waberthwaite (-62kg), Andrew Carlile of Carlisle (-68kg), Joe Hale, Rothbury (-74kg), Jack Brown, a Northumbrian who learned his wrestling at Carlisle (-81kg), Jack Hale, Rothbury (-90kg), and Thomas Gibson, Carlisle (-100kg).

In addition there is a support team of Alan Jones (coach and inveterate strategist), three arbiters (judges): Josie Brown, Jason Davidson and Linda Scott, and a contingent of super-fans who are daft enough to travel anywhere to support our wrestlers. Special thanks are due to Jason Davidson, the Rothbury coach, who did most of the organising.

Since the championships inception in 1985 we have been over-all winners three times (1987, 1988 and in 1993). The reasons for the long gap since then are that strong countries with more wrestlers on their books than us joined the federation (Sardinia, Austria, Leon and the Canary Islands). We have always struggled to turn out a full team, and without weak links. The Bretons in particular have embraced our back-hold style: use it in their initial training in schools, organise the prestigious Breton Backhold Championships each year, and best of all bring their wrestlers to Scotland and Cumbria each year in August/September for ten days of intensive competition against our best wrestlers, male and female. Although the team championship may be beyond us now, all our wrestlers have real chances of winning individual honours especially in their own C&W style which is one of the two styles used in the championship. Before any of this happens they will also be invited to compete in a day of Ranggeln, the local traditional style of Austria.

Summer is nearly here: the first wrestling event of the season takes place on Sunday the 30th April when Hethersgill Vintage Society hold their rally near Carlisle Airport. Importantly, before that, before the season begins there will be a judges and referees meeting Wednesday 26th April 7.30pm, in the Small Hall, Currock House, Carlisle. Although the meeting is particularly important for potential referees, all who are interested in the sport are urged to attend. At this meeting we seek after consistency and clarification on all judging and refereeing matters.

**Tomorrow night, Saturday 8th April it's Waberthwaite Academy Open Night with lots of wrestling, craic and pies and peas.**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN AUSTRIA**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday April 30th**

**Hethersgill Vintage Society at Carlisle Airport. The Season begins.**



All six of our wrestlers returned from the European Championships in Austria with heads held high. They struggled with the Ranglglen wrestling



style of the hosts; they struggled with the jacket style of Gouren from Brittany. But, in Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling, the back-hold style, **they were the masters, clearly ahead of seven other competing nations: the Austrians, Leonese (Spain), Bretons (France), Scots, Icelanders, Sardinians (Italy), and the USA.**

In addition, **Andrew Carlile** was honoured and acclaimed as the best back-hold wrestler in the whole event.

**62kg:** Silver medal: Michael Kirkham made one of the pluckiest comebacks ever. He injured himself in the first pool section but had won enough to hobble into the ring for the Semi-final cross-ties. The Scot, Sam McCrory, then hanked him twice, but wrestling best-of-five, Kirkham fought back with some dizzying hipes and won his way to the final, but by this time was so injured he could not go on.



**68kg:** Gold: preparation and patience was the winning formula for Andrew Carlile. He was physically honed as you would expect, and he had



done his homework. Modern technology edged into an ancient sport when Carlile studied a u-tube video of his opponents. He even had his pool bout with Ryan Ferry filmed to prepare for meeting him again in the final. And he had the physique, speed and nous to carry it through to a glorious win.

**74kg:** Silver: Joe Hale did well to reach the final, but had to give best to the Scot, Greg Neilson. In the Austrian and Breton styles he did better than anyone else on the team.



**81kg:** Gold: In the final Jack Brown felled one of the host's favourite sons, Herman Hollwart, "The Herminator". In the first bout of the final



Jack Brown lifted and swung the powerful Austrian so high and brought him down so conclusively that he never considered coming into the ring for a second dose.

**90kg:** Gold: Jack Hale hipers; it's his thing; and he did it again and again and again. His Icelandic opponent was knocked out cold for a few minutes but came back for more...same result.



**100kg:** Silver: Thomas Gibson is young and we wondered about the potential raw power of the opposition, but such doubts were scotched when he felled last year's heavyweight winner at Grasmere, Asmundur Asmundsson, in the pools and went into the finals as favourite.



We had a finalist in every section, except in the +100kg, in Jimmy Hall's absence.

In no small measure that was due to the encouraging presence of the Carlisle coach, Alan Jones. Andrew Carlile commented that "We wouldn't have got to six finals without Jonesy being there energising and focusing."

Well done lads. I wish I'd been there.

**April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### PRE-SEASON MEETING OF JUDGES AND REFEREES

#### NEWS UPDATES

##### **(MESSAGE FROM CWWA CHAIRMAN, LINDA SCOTT)**

*'A meeting for all Judges & Referees (and anyone with an interest) is to be held on **WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL at 7.30pm within the Small Hall, Currock House Community Centre, Lediard Avenue, Carlisle CA2 4BS.***

*It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you attend this meeting if you are ever involved in any judging/refereeing for Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, however infrequent. The meeting is also open to anyone with an interest in judging or refereeing.'*

**Sunday April 30th - 1.30pm - Hethersgill Vintage Club at Carlisle Airport - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW.**

**Wrestlers & Officials to pay at gate and be reimbursed on entry.**

Wherever there is strong, competitive sporting action, there must also be control and regulation and consistency to achieve satisfaction. A level playing field is necessary both literally and metaphorically.

Two hundred years ago on the Swifts Racecourse, by the Eden in Carlisle in 1815 "*the last wrestle was not fairly contested*". That corrupt bout, and others in subsequent years, led to crowd dissatisfaction and the suspension of this major wrestling event until order could be restored.



William Litt in "**Wrestliana**" (1823) dedicated half of his book to improvement of refereeing and organisation of the wrestling ring. He wanted a "regular and acknowledged mode of proceeding which would promptly and invariably be acted on". That could be the motto for the judges and referees' meeting which is scheduled to take place next week just before the Summer Grass Season begins on the last day of April at Carlisle Airport.

Litt believed that *"very few are qualified as umpires. The station requires a competent knowledge of wrestling; -equanimity of temper; -decided judgement; -and strict impartiality"*; so, nothing changes. Where he is at odds with modern practice is when he favours having a single umpire whilst still acknowledging that *"spectators on one side of the ring do not see a fall in exactly the same manner as those on some other"*.



The basic problems he faces up to are remarkably similar to what will be reviewed at next week's meeting: how to start a bout with a fair hold for each wrestler; snap holds; broken holds; heads out.

In my thirty-odd years of competitive wrestling I experienced all the faults of the system in the post-War years: the long hang-on for some wrestlers to take hold as the crowd evaporated; the near-fights before the wrestling even started; weigh-men who were blind; parent-judges with blinkered vision; double silk vests to make a back as slippery as a bar of wet soap; rings wick with cow and dog muck; dangerous rings with crowd and cars intruding and fence posts and metal tent-pegs; judges conferring in the middle of the ring..... It is a wonder we survived.

All these matters have been attended to in new regulation over the years. The problem is how to communicate those changes, and that is where the referees' meetings are all important. The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in wrestling, and is certainly not some elitist club for existing referees. We need new blood, male and female, old and young, from all areas where Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling is part of the local culture, to standardise and improve what happens in the ring.

**April 27<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE GRASS SEASON GETS UNDERWAY**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday April 30th - 1.30pm - Hethersgill Vintage Club at Carlisle Airport - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW. Wrestlers & Officials to pay at gate and be reimbursed on entry.**



In my world, Summer starts this weekend: the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season begins at Carlisle Airport as part of Hethersgill Vintage Club's Rally. The full calendar of events right up to Alwinton Show and Wasdale Head, and other information, will be available at the Vintage Rally to anyone who wishes to be a member of the Wrestling Association (£20 Seniors; £5 Juniors).

Fifty-seven events have confirmed that they will be holding wrestling as part of their programme. Not surprisingly most are in Cumbria with a good spread in the North, South and West of the county, but with only Appleby Show in the East. Lancashire, Durham and the Borders of Scotland are all well represented, and Northumberland will host eleven events.

CWWA Chairman, Linda Scott, explained laconically in an email *"Three of last year's four new events; Appleby Show, Slaley Show and Blackcombe are repeated but no Garstang this year. Keswick Show is back on the list after last year's floods. Sedbergh Gala is cancelled due to lack of organisers. Stanegate Festival is missing a year and Borrowdale is reverting to a basic Sheep Show."* Win some; lose some.



For those wrestlers facing a Summer of dieting to meet their weights, the **Championship venues are also on the list.** The most urgent weight loss may be dictated by the 12st Championship taking place early in the season (May 29th) at the Northumberland Show. The most intense period of the season is the three weeks beginning with Bellingham Show on August 26th, when no fewer than seven championships are scheduled. As the Bretons, Scots and Icelanders are usually here during that period, there could be some tough international competition.

Just to spice up the international element an invitation arrived from Frazer Hirsch of the Scottish Wrestling Bond: *"Once again I am running our annual training camp which is now in its fourth year and will run from Thursday 3rd of August to Sunday 6th of August. It will consist of 2 days of training sessions in three different styles: Backhold, Glima, Gouren at the moment and if the Spanish come there will be a fourth style Lucha Leonesa. It would be a great pleasure to have a team come from England to take part in this event. The age group is from 14-20 years, but in the past few years there have been some wrestlers in their mid twenties that have attended so it's just a guide."*

The success of the recent Austrian trip has led to the possibility of the CWWA hosting the Espoirs European Championships here in 2018. The event is for teams of wrestlers, male and female, aged 16 to 21 years. A sub-committee has been set up to explore dates, venues and funding to see if the idea is viable.

Nearly thirty people from all corners of our wrestling world met for the referees' forum and workshop in Carlisle. The usual suspects were there, but especially welcome was the strong and youthful representation from West Cumbria, and the six women who are making an active contribution to our sport.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> 2017**

'SOME VINTAGE WRESTLING AMONG VINTAGE MACHINERY'



The new wrestling season opened on a windy airfield with an immaculate mown ring surrounded by steam engines, old lorries that used to be limited to 20 mph and regularly ran backwards down Doctor's Brow in Sebergham seventy years ago; rows of shiny cars and tractors of all ages were intermingled with men in dark blue boiler suits talking a foreign language: Hethersgill Vintage Club's Rally at Carlisle Airport.

Most of the wrestlers were from the Carlisle area, but Kendal was well represented especially by the Hodgson/Stainton clan from Dentdale. There were plenty of youngsters competing, but a shortage of men.

The first classes were dominated by the Wharton brothers. Connor, with his patented right-leg back-heel and general wrestling nous, came through the crowd of youngsters to meet Rosie Hodgson in the final, and finish her off with a twist off the chest. Mark, the holder of the Under 15 Years Championship, had little trouble in winning the under 15s, hiping little brother Connor in the semi-final, and Jack Harrison of Silloth in the final. Earlier, Jack Harrison had one of the falls of the day when he buttocked James Guy off the back-heel.



Thomas Gibson, fresh from international wrestling in Austria, and the YFC Entertainment Finals in Torquay, resumed his summer occupation with a straightforward hiping win in the Under 18 Years.

The Ladies final pitted double champion Connie Hodgson against Gemma Coulthard, last year's double Victrix Ludorum winner. Gemma went



for hold and seemed to be prospering, but was brought to earth with Connie's well-timed twist, twice.

Not many weeks ago, in Austria, Andrew Carlile was awarded the accolade of "Best Backhold Wrestler" in the European Championships. At the Vintage Rally he found himself competing against his protégés from Carlisle Wrestling Club where he is one of the main coaches.

Mark Wharton gave a good account of himself, and even had a dog-fall. Thomas Gibson, much heavier than Carlile, and successful against him on the winter mats at Currock House, must have had high hopes, but was bamboozled by Carlile's defensive skills. Surrounded by masses of vintage machinery, we also saw vintage wrestling in the ring.

(Written by Roger Robson ..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2017})

### Hethersgill Vintage Rally

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton,	R Hodgson	M Stainton
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	J Harrison	C Wharton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	M Wharton	J Gibson
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	R Hodgson
12½ Stone	A Carlile	M Wharton	J Guy
All Weights	A Carlile,	M Wharton	T Gibson

May 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

### MAY DAY WRESTLING IN A MEDIAEVAL SETTING



On May Day wrestling took place in a mediaeval setting within the walls of Appleby Castle. Plans there are afoot for events which could include a wrestling demonstration as part of the programme. For example, they are interested in having wrestling to kick off an open air film show planned for later in the year, when the film would be projected onto the castle keep.

The May Day event was a sampling session to test the water as far as Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling was concerned. CWWA chairman, Linda Scott, was referee on the day and reported that, "Young wrestlers John Gibson, Matty Hodgson, Jonathan Wharton and friend 'Bobby' introduced our style of wrestling to spectators within Appleby Castle.



Demonstrating the back heel, inside click, outside stroke and variations of the buttock, with an informative commentary from Alf Harrington, they kept the crowd well entertained. Heavyweight wrestlers Jack Ewart and Jimmy Hall then took over with an excellent display of hipes causing the earth to tremble in the castle's inner bailey.

*"Some young children had a go to wrestle for the first time and they must have been paying close attention as they all took a butcher's grip without any guidance from me as referee."*

Wrestling takes place in some funny places. Years ago, I remember travelling regularly late in the evening to a Keswick Night Club to give a wrestling demonstration as part of "Cumberland Merry Neet". A pub at Tebay used to sponsor wrestling in its garden. The Academy Shield has been held in a wide variety of Village Halls.

Our wrestling rarely takes place as a stand-alone event, but links to other parts of our local heritage in a symbiotic way. Two hundred years ago wrestling took place at the Race Meetings at Carlisle and Penrith, and at the likes of Keswick Regatta. Lakeland Sports became popular in Victorian times with the mixture of hound-trailing, wrestling, fell-running, track-races and "leaping" (pole-, high- and long-jump), and continues to this day at Ambleside and Grasmere.

This year's programme shows wrestling taking place at vintage rallies, country fairs, shepherds meets and sheepdog trials, galas and traditional sports meetings, and tomorrow at the North Cumbria Young Farmers Field Day. But, by far the greatest supporters of our traditional wrestling are the agricultural shows. Fittingly, the three main county shows, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland, are major supporters of wrestling.

Only one event on the 2017 programme is purely focused on Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling: Rothbury Mart on September 1st. For a single night, lots of money prizes, lots of spectators, and lots of wrestlers, some from distant parts like Scotland, Iceland, Brittany and Waberthwaite, gather at the old mart where the ring and tiered seating provides an exciting venue. Usually though, wrestling needs allies.

Tomorrow's wrestling at the YFC Field Day, near Wigton, demonstrates perfectly how the sport fits naturally in to the wide range of skills and interests which are part of rural life in Northern England.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**CUMBRIAN YOUNG FARMERS NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL FIELD DAY**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Monday May 29th - 1.30 - Northumberland Show - U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 12st World Championship / 13½st / AW / Ladies 10st / Ladies AW**

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**Thursday June 1st - 6pm - Killington Sports**



A major event happened at Lanrigg Farm, lost down narrow lanes between Wigton and Aspatria. The Cumbrian Young Farmers Northern District Annual Field Day brought together the farming community for a host of activities inside and out; from bush tucker trial to floral art; from egg throwing to farm planning. Cumbrian culture was represented by competitions in gurning, dialect and C&W Wrestling.

The diversity of the YFC was amply demonstrated by Megan Gibson of Raughton Head who won the trophy for the best actress in the final of a national competition at Torquay three weeks ago, and here she was flattening everybody in the Women's wrestling.

Her final opponent, Laura Elliott of Kirklington, was in great form having felled the formidable Sandra Woodend of Drigg, who had often won in former years, but Megan was too strong, experienced and skilful for her.



Alan Jones, who is neither young, nor a farmer, nor local, was nevertheless watching the action with interest. He could be gratified to see his regular wrestlers from Carlisle Wrestling Club doing so well, with Gemma Coulthard and Kieran Miller winning their sections in addition to Megan Gibson. Kieran hiped for England and Gemma used her powerful control to snuff out any opposition. But Alan Jones was also casting an eye over the novice wrestlers who had been coached by him on the Carlisle mats when the various Young Farmers Clubs had booked training sessions over the winter in preparation for the Field Day.



Pre-eminent amongst them was a young giant from Caldbeck, Jamie Lightfoot. He's the sort of lad to have around when you need a girder carried somewhere. He is endowed with great power, but I can remember sitting next to him at the Currock House Gym as he waited his turn to go on the mat to have his strength refined for wrestling efficiency and safety.

Even good wrestlers like Phil Potts, Chairman of Raughton Head YFC and son of a champion wrestler, could only bounce off him in the semi-final like a kid climbing in an oak tree. His final opponent, Henry Crocker of Skelton was nearer to him in size than any other wrestler, but Jamie Lightfoot simply screwed him into the ground with slow control.



(Written by Roger Robson ..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2017})

### North Cumbria Young Farmers Club Field Day Results

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Ladies 10 Stone	G Coulthard (Raughtonhead)	S Emmot (Greysouthern)	S Dodd (Aspatria);	K Armstrong (Caldbeck)
Ladies over 10 Stone	M Gibson (Raughtonhead)	L Elliott (Kirkclinton)	L Graham (Caldbeck)	S Woodend (Drigg)
Men's 11½ Stone	K Miller (Wigton)	T Wales (Raughtonhead)	O Dean (Brampton)	S Hird (Caldbeck)
Men's over 11½ Stone	J Lightfoot (Caldbeck)	H Crocker (Skelton)	P Potts (Raughtonhead)	B Harrison (Aspatria)

**May 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE PROBLEMS SURROUNDING ORGANISATION OF CWWA WRESTLING EVENTS**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Monday May 29th - 1.30 - Northumberland Show - U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 12st World Championship / 13½st / AW / Ladies 10st / Ladies AW**

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**Thursday June 1st - 6pm - Killington Sports**

Normally, I would be writing about the wrestling at Sedbergh Gala, but this year it did not happen. The event seemed to be popular with big entries for the fell races and a lot of people watching. Its demise was not because of storm damage or financial disaster, but simply because there were problems in finding people to serve on the committee.

Much the same thing happened in Great Langdale in recent years when the existing Gala committee put out an ultimatum that unless new, enthusiastic people joined them, the event would fold. In their case the situation was rescued and last year hordes of runners once more took to the nearby hills for the fell races, and wrestling took place in its neat ring.

It set me thinking about the labour force needed to put on an event. Even one area, like the wrestling, needs a swarm of enthusiastic people to sustain each event. Someone has to turn up with a lawn-mower the night before. Small straw bales or chairs from the Village Hall circle the ring; they did not fall there out of the sky. Someone has to find the bag of sawdust which marks out the wrestling area. A speaker system does not just magic itself into position.



On the day itself a minimum staff of five is needed for the smooth running of a wrestling event according to the CWWA rules. The officials comprise two judges and a referee, with the latter responsible for safety checks and weighing-in of wrestlers. At the table at least one person is needed to take the entries, write the tickets, and act as paymaster. Any successful wrestling event these days has to have someone on the microphone to rally the wrestlers, and keep the crowd informed and amused. All these people did not just turn up by accident; someone has taken responsibility and liaised with the event committee.

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling is lucky to have so many people willing to volunteer, travel the miles, and do the work without any thought of cost. We may have money prizes for the wrestlers, but the organisation of the sport is a triumph of amateurism at its best.

Even though there has been no Sedbergh Gala, that does not mean there has been no wrestling in the town. This week Chris Bland will once more take a wrestling session for the pupils at Sedbergh School, which will be half coaching and half competitive. Win some; lose some.

The southern area YFC Field Day held their wrestling competition in the Westmorland Show car park before the main event hosted by Broughton YFC. Sedbergh featured again with two of the four categories won by Sedbergh YFC members; or to put it another way two members of the Hodgson family from Dentdale. Hannah won the Ladies 10st; double-champion Connie won the Ladies Open; and cousin Daryl was second in the Men's All Weights.

Not unexpectedly, the trained wrestlers were to the fore with Sam Wilson and William Hayhurst of Kendal Academy both winning their section.

**June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**THE NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY SHOW**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday June 10th - 1pm - Roman Wall Show: U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs World Championship / 11½st / 13½st / AW / Ladies**

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**Saturday June 10th - 7pm - Lowgill: U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11st / 13st / AW / Ladies U17yrs / Ladies AW**

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**Saturday June 17th - 12.30 - Cumberland Show: U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / Girls U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 12st / 14st / AW World Championship**

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**Saturday June 17th - Quernmore:**

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The wrestlers, crowd and a bit of rain all turned up in force for some grand wrestling at the Northumberland County Show. The county's only wrestling academy, Rothbury, had hired the Community Bus, so the wrestling had to be a success.

It started well for them when Aaron Younger, who seems to have been wrestling forever, won the Under 10 Years from a sparky lightweight girl, Madison Dixon; and it reached its peak when Joe Hale won the biggest competition of the day, the 12 stones world championship.

Joe's lanky frame is well suited to hiping in its various forms, but he also has a deadly hank which is unusual in such a tall lad. He used both chips in disposing of Thomas Hayhurst in the first round, and swinging hiped Andrew Carlile in the second. In the semi final, against the holder, Jack Brown, he was matched against a wrestler of much the same physique, who proceeded to take the first fall by twisting back as Hale came across him. Then came a series of unstoppable throws when Hale brought a third technique into play; a sudden attack which knocked legs sideways, followed by an almighty twist.



That finished off Jack Brown and won the first fall of the final against John Harrington. The winning fall of the final was quite different, for a savvy wrestler like Harrington was sharp on his defensive work. After all the flurry and sudden action of the previous wrestling the title was won by a slow motion hank from which Harrington could not escape.

Earlier in the day, the Wharton family had a good day when Connor won the Under 12s and Mark hiped his way through the opposition in the Under 15s. For his last fall of the final against Ryan Armstrong my notes say "i hipe 'classic'".

The end of the Under 18 Years was a three way match between big lads from three academies: George Wilson from Kendal, Zak Singleton, Rothbury, and Thomas Gibson, Carlisle. In the end, Zak took the final's first fall by finding some heavy-lifting-gear to hipe George. He then fought back with technique and speed rather than power, especially in a neat right leg outside-stroke.

Richard Fox was well fired up to fell Jack Brown in the 13½st final. Joe Thompson, after a shaky start against Jordan Brown, felled George Wilson in the All Weights final.

In the female wrestling the same shirt won both categories, but worn by different girls. Laura Elliott, the shirt's owner won the Open class and her friend Abi Marston was back to her best in the 10 stones. Last year Abi left the field in an ambulance with potentially serious injuries. Now she is back in full flow; the circle has turned.

(Written by Roger Robson ..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2017})

### Northumberland County Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger	M Dixon	W Fellows
Under 12 Years	C Wharton.	R Hodgson	B Carter
Under15 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	R Bulloch
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	Z Singleton	T Gibson
12 Stone World Championship	<a href="#">Joe Hale</a>	J Harrington	J Brown
13½ Stone	R Fox	J Brown	,D Miller
All Weights	<a href="#">J Thompson</a>	<a href="#">G Wilson</a>	J Brown
Ladies 10 Stone	A Marston	R Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
Ladies All Weights	L Elliott	A Hindmarsh	J Harrison

## June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

### KILLINGTON SPORTS

#### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday June 10th - 1pm - Roman Wall Show:** U12yrs / U15yrs / **U18yrs World Championship** / 11½st / 13½st / AW / Ladies

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**Saturday June 10th - 7pm - Lowgill:** U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11st / 13st / AW / Ladies U17yrs / Ladies AW

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**Saturday June 17th - 12.30 - Cumberland Show:** U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / Girls U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 12st / 14st / **AW World Championship**

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**Saturday June 17th - Quernmore:**

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The name "Killington" evokes two worlds: either an efficient haven of a Service station beside the hurtling metalwork of the M6 Motorway; or a quirky mown field with its own drumlin, and hordes of people, of all ages, racing with tyres or potatoes, throwing eggs, running or cycling up hills, pillow fighting and wrestling...Killington Sports. Business starts at six o' clock and was still frenetic when I left in the ten o' clock gloom. The wrestling took a full two hours to complete.

The copious wrestling entries were almost complete when the large white Rothbury community bus arrived, sitting like a beached iceberg at the drumlin's edge.



Referee, Chris Bland's, main problem to begin with was knotting up the young wrestlers in the proper hold for the Under 9 Years and removing their shoes. The winner, Ivan Winder, can be proud to have finished on top of such a prodigious pile.

After that, the known wrestlers took over with the best of Kendal, Rothbury and Carlisle academies taking the top three slots. Max Bates of Rothbury was by far the smallest wrestler in the large entry but he bamboozled his way to the final against Kendal's Thomas Wilson where he had to concede to the skill and verve of Thomas's style. The Wilson tribe was also well represented by Eizabeth who is a sparky little wrestler, and very much bigger brother, George who won both the Under 18s and Under 21s.



Nelson Thomlinson School, Wigton, supplied the other two winners in the youth sections. Mark Wharton showed his classy wrestling style with hipes and outside-strokes to win the Under 15s, and reach the final of the Under18s. Gemma Coulthard felled Kelsie Cardukes in the final of the Under 18 Girls, finishing her off with a classic outside-hipe.



The rest of the night was entirely dominated by the Brocklebank/Hodgson tribe. Graham Brocklebank lost his battle with the scales, but brother Ben won the 13 stones, and brother Thomas looked unstoppable in the All Weights. Meanwhile, their cousins Connie and Hannah were first and second in the Ladies All Weights. Connie is spry and dangerous this year, and just to prove it, she ran in the mixed mile handicap: four laps round the hilliest running-track in the country.

Rothbury had no first places, but their wrestlers added greatly to the occasion especially with the heroics of Max Bates and the strong performances of Alex Wragg and Zak Singleton.



Killington is a family occasion, and I was proud to have five grandchildren competing, as I celebrated gaining a free TV licence and being too old to act as a wrestling referee.

(Written by Roger Robson ..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2017})

### Killington Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	I Winder	J Stainton	H Partington
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	M Bates	C Wharton
Under 15 Yeras	M Wharton	T Davidson	J Dickinson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	<a href="#">M Wharton</a>	<a href="#">E Robson</a>
Under 18 Years Ladies	G Coulthard	K Cordukes	E Wilson
Under 21 Years	G Wilson	Z Singleton	A Wragg
13 Stone	<a href="#">B Brocklebank</a>	A Wragg	A Myers
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	L Cordukes
All Weights	<a href="#">T Brocklebank</a>	G Brocklebank	Z Singleton

**ROMAN WALL SHOW**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday June 17th - 1 pm - Cumberland Show: U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / Girls U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 12st / 14st / AW  
World Championship**

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**Saturday June 17th - 3 pm - Quernmore: U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls**

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**Saturday June 24th - Alston Gala \*\*\*\*\***

**Sunday June 25th - 1.30 - Ullswater Country Fair, Patterdale U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW \*\*\*\*\***

**Saturday July 1st - 1.30 - Skelton Show U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st World Championship / AW**

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**Sunday July 2nd - West Cumbria Vint. Rally, Distington**

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**Sunday July 2nd - Langdale Gala**

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**2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line**



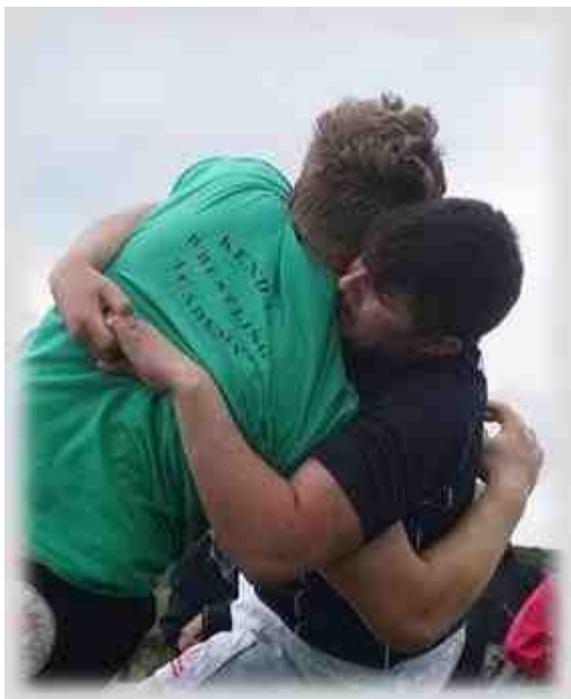
The Roman Wall Show, situated on the highest stretch of the wall with Whin Sill crags and lakes, was a spectacular site for the gladiatorial clashes of the CWWA wrestling championship for lads Under 18 Years. The famous Rothbury bus brought a cohort of good wrestlers for the title event, but especially Zak Singleton standing tall amongst the others.



The Kendal Academy was well represented by the Wilson family including the title holder George Wilson, with a string of youth championships in his Curriculum Vitae.

Add in, too, Carlisle Wrestling Club's Thomas Gibson who has served a long apprenticeship, and has steadily gained momentum in his success rate. There were plenty of other good wrestlers in the lists, but these three young giants were the ones to beat.

Thomas Gibson was able to warm up in the first two rounds in bouts with skilled but lighter wrestlers which he duly felled with hipes and control. In the semi-final he met Zak Singleton whose six foot-four frame towered over him. First Thomas cut him down to size with a back-heel, then in the second hold executed a remarkable inside-hipe, one of the falls of the tournament.



Thomas Gibson and George Wilson were applauded into the ring to contest the final. Gibson's strategy was to get down into the short rib and twist Wilson over his knee. That worked for the first fall but was countered in the second so that the clash became sudden death for the final fall. Gibson wasted no time: as



soon as the command to "Wrestle!" was out of the referee's mouth, he dived in low with a back-heel, and Wilson was down and Thomas Gibson was the new champion.

Graham Brocklebank had a good day, both at the Roman Wall where he won the 13½st and All Weights (and the best performance trophy) and also nearer at home in the evening at Lowgill Sports where he judged for the juniors, won the 14 stones and then wrestled up to big brother Thomas in the All Weights.

Thomas Wilson also gained a double at the two shows in the Under 12 Years. Carlisle wrestlers Mark Wharton, John Harrington and Abi Marston all showed their skills in winning at the Roman Wall; and Gemma Coulthard, who was putting the shot at the county athletics in the early afternoon, travelled down to Lowgill to win both the Under 17 and Open Ladies categories.

**With the All Weights Championship coming up at the weekend at the Cumberland Show in its new show-field, the referee for the championship, Tom Harrington, has asked me to make clear that the wrestlers must obey the rules about the traditional strip:**

***"The strip consists of four parts: a pair of socks; leggings which fit tightly to the leg; (such as long-johns, and tights) a centre-piece elasticated round the waist and the legs. In the absence of a purpose-made garment, a bathing costume is acceptable. (Please note that shorts are not accepted as a substitute)."***

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### Roman Wall Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	C Wharton	E Wilson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	J Gibson	R Bulloch
<b>Under 18 Years World Championship</b>	T Gibson	G Wilson	Z Singleton
11½ Stones	J Harrington	C Whitfield	R Armstrong
13½ Stones	G Brocklebank	J Brown	C Whitfield
<b>Ladies</b>	<b>A Marston</b>	<b>E Wilson</b>	<b>A Bates</b>
All Weights	G Brocklebank	G Wilson	Joe Hale

### Lowgill Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	R Hodgson	T Charnley
Under 15 Years	J Guy	T Wilson	J Charnley
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	J Guy	Ted Hodgson
<b>Girls Under 17 Years</b>	<b>G Coulthard</b>	<b>R Hodgson</b>	<b>D Preece</b>
11½ Stones	T Hayhurst	J Guy	Ted Hodgson
14 Stones	G Brocklebank	T Hayhurst	Ted Hodgson
<b>Ladies Open</b>	<b>G Coulthard</b>	<b>L Capstick</b>	<b>L Preece</b>
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	G Wilson

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

**'LEGGIE, LEISH AND SUPPLE' - JACK BROWN WINS THE ALL WEIGHTS CHAMPIONSHIP**

#### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday June 24th - 1pm -- Alston Gala U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11½st / 13½st / Ladies / AW**

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**Sunday June 25th - 1.30 - Ullswater Country Fair, Patterdale U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW**

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**Saturday July 1st -1.30 - Skelton Show U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st World Championship / AW**

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**Sunday July 2nd - West Cumbria Vint. Rally, Distington**

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**Sunday July 2nd - 2pm -Langdale Gala U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11st / 13st / AW / Females U17 / Females Open**

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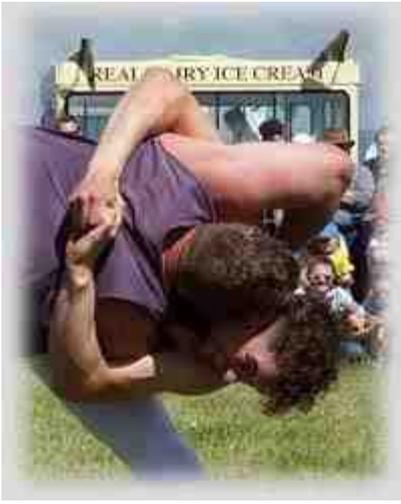
## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line

Jack Brown had one of the best days of his wrestling life at the Cumberland Show. He began well in his own weight, the 12 stones, felling John Harrington with lifting throws which utilised his tall frame. In the 14 stones he had to be content with third place in a strong field which was dominated by the Brocklebank brothers, Graham and Ben.

Then came the All Weights Championship to round off a fine day of wrestling, with the added Brocklebank brother, Thomas, the title holder in the lists.

Jack Brown had a light beginning when he continued his series of bouts with John Harrington in the first round felling him with a chest counter, and then a leg-up buttock. His second round opponent was more substantial and unknown, for Andrew Benn from Millom was making a comeback, and had already shown some of his skills. Jack finished him off with a cross-buttock after a spin.

In the semi-final Jack met Joe Hale, winner of the 12st Championship three weeks previously at the Northumberland Show. The two are very similar physically but it was Jack who won with back-heel and low hips.



The final brought together two very different wrestlers. Thomas Brocklebank, with his weight, power and wrestling instincts, goes for hold and knows how to use it. Jack Brown, like a character in an old Northumbrian ballad is "sae leggie, leish and supple"; and he is also a blacksmith, no doubt carrying anvils about under his arm.

Brocklebank's immense power was demonstrated with the first fall where he hiped Brown cleanly to the ground using only his shoulders.

The second fall was different in that Brown held his man at bay and then played the inside-click, in such a way that any normal twist from Brocklebank simply accentuated Brown's chip.

**The third fall** was different again when Brown kept his man moving until he was able to move in from the right side and bring him over with a right-side buttock and twist.

**The crowd erupted, Jack's father, Josie dived into the ring through ropes, people and chairs, to land at Jack's feet.**



I had the job of allocating the Guinness Trophy for the best wrestling performance of the day. No decision was more easily made.

Aaron Younger continued his precocious performance in the Under 10s; the Wharton brothers, Connor and Mark, won their age-groups in quick succession; Gemma Coulthard won again in the Girls Under 15 Years despite a twingey neck; George Wilson reversed last week's Under 18 Championship final when he felled Thomas Gibson; Graham Brocklebank continued his winning ways in the 14 stones; and Katy Brown set the standard for brother Jack when she won the Ladies Open event before he had even warmed up.

Quernmore Sports was taking place simultaneously, and not unexpectedly the main emphasis was on the youngsters wrestling. "No men for All Weights" said my note from Norah Hayhurst.

From Linda Scott, Chairman of the CWWA came this message:

The International Espoirs Championships 2018 event is planned to be held in Penrith from 6 - 9th April 2018.

We wish to invite anyone interested in coaching the team (Backhold/Gouren) to contact us by 11th July 2017.

Nominations will be presented to the Governing Board for selection. Wrestlers who are interested in being in the team (male/female aged 16-20 years at competition date) are also invited to put themselves forward.

We would also like to hear from anyone wishing to judge or referee at the event.

All those interested please email: [cumbwestwrestlingassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cumbwestwrestlingassoc@gmail.com)

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#### Cumberland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger	Jack Gibson	N Guy
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	R Hodgson	T Wilson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	O Mason	R Armstrong
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Ladies Open	K Brown	G Coulthard	J Harrison
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Gibson	M Wharton
12 Stones	J Brown	J Harrington	A Carlile
14 Stones	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	J Brown
All Weights World Championship	J Brown	T Brocklebank	B Brocklebank
Guinness Trophy	Jack Brown		

#### Quernmore Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	T Ashworth	J-L Stainton	G Hodgson
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	B Giles	T Coile
Under 15 Years	M Stainton	M Bowman	G Drinkwater
Girls Under 18 Years	R Hodgson	K Cordukes	H Carter
Under 18 Years	A Dearden	D Townley	H Carter.
13 Stones	A Dearden	B Hodgson	D Townley
Ladies Open	T Hodgson	H Carter	L Cordukes

**June 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### ALSTON GALA AND ULLSWATER COUNTRY FAIR

##### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday July 1st -1.30 - Skelton Show U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st World Championship / AW**  
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**Sunday July 2nd - 2pm - Langdale Gala U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11st / 13st / AW / Females U17 / Females Open**  
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**Sunday July 2nd - 1pm - Vint. Rally, Distington - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 12½st / AW**  
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**Sunday July 9th - 2pm - Haltwhistle - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / Novice / 11½st / 13st / AW**  
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### 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line

The Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season is now into its annual routine with no gaps in the programme until October. This week's meets were at Alston Gala, high in the Pennines, and Ullswater Country Fair embedded in the mountains round Patterdale at the head of the lake. In many ways many of the same wrestlers and organisers were involved, with Rothbury and Carlisle wrestlers at both events, whilst an extra

contingent of Kendal wrestlers swelled the ranks at Patterdale.



One particular pair of wrestlers, Robbie Bulloch of Rothbury and Ryan Armstrong of Carlisle were remarkable in the number of times they met, the high standard of the throws, and the uncertainty of any outcome.

Armstrong felled Bulloch in a multi-fall final of the Under 15 Years, and Bulloch won the 11½ stones, felling Armstrong en route. In the men's wrestling two wrestlers completed double wins at the two different events. At Alston, Jack Brown came down to earth after a week of savouring his magnificent win of the All Weights World Championship at the Cumberland Show.



There was no-one to test him in the 13½ stones, but in the All Weights he was faced by someone fit to match any of our heavyweight wrestlers, Jimmy Hall. Jack Brown must have thought, "here we go again" as he sought to hide from the power of the bigger man by constant movement. Hall took the second fall with a wrench-buttock to level things, and set up a sudden-death fall. Brown waited his moment before nipping in with an inside-click which his opponent could not escape. It was déjà-vu all over again.



Next day at Patterdale it was Ben Brocklebank who was the double winner. Like Jack Brown at Alston, he had a straightforward expected win in the lighter weight, but in the All Weights there were several bigger lads in the lists. In the end it was bigger brother Graham whom he met in the final. True to the usual form, Graham took the lead with a sudden buttock as the referee called "Wrestle." Then the form-book disintegrated when Ben hiped for one fall and neatly crossed for the winner.

Perhaps I saw the reason for this surprise win later when I was chewing a "Wild Boar Burger" at a nearby burger van and the two brothers approached. Ben went as normal for the fodder, but Graham chatted to me and refused the merest nibble of wild boar. You see, he holds the 13st

title... and it is up for competition at Skelton Show... next week.

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#### Alston Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	J Wharton	O Graham
Under 15 Years	<a href="#">R Armstrong</a>	<a href="#">R Bulloch</a>	<a href="#">M Hodgson</a>
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	R Bulloch	R Armstrong
11½ Stones	<a href="#">R Bulloch</a>	M Hodgson	<a href="#">R Armstrong</a>
13½ Stones	J Brown	R Armstrong	R Bulloch
Ladies	<a href="#">A Hindmarsh</a>	A Bates	C Bainbridge
All Weights	J Brown	<a href="#">J Hall</a>	<a href="#">Z Singleton</a>

#### Patterdale Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	C Wharton	J Charnley
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	J Guy	C Wharton
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	M Hodgson	Z Singleton
Ladies	H Hodgson	G Coulthard	L Cordukes
12½ Stones	B Brocklebank	M Harrington	Ted Hodgson
All Weights	B Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	G Wilson

## July 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

### JACK BROWN ADDS THE 13 STONE CHAMPIONSHIP TO HIS 14 STONE TITLE

#### NEWS UPDATES

[Sunday July 9th - 2pm - Haltwhistle - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / Novice / 11½st / 13st / AW](#)  
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[Sunday July 16th - Great Ecclestone Show](#)  
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[Saturday July 22nd - 1.15 Penrith Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW](#)  
\*\*\*\*\*

[Sunday July 23rd - Coniston](#)  
\*\*\*\*\*

[Thursday July 27th - 12pm Ambleside FEMALES: U15yrs / 10½st / Ladies Open .](#)

MIXED: U12yrs;

MALES: U15yrs / U18yrs / 8st / 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW

### [2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line](#)

Skelton Show provided a fitting memorial to Bob Millican who died last year. As a wrestler he dominated the 13st Championship from 1962 to 1964 and he even won the All Weights title in 1967. Skelton was his home village and his service to the show meant the return of wrestling to its menu many years ago.



Last week his widow, Doreen, and grandson Henry, presented the 13st Championship trophy and a new memorial cup to Jack Brown after some brilliant and sudden wrestling. His daughter, Helen, was unable to be there because she was simultaneously presenting four hours of sport on Radio Cumbria, with wrestling getting its fair share of attention.

Last year's 13st title holder, Graham Brocklebank of Warton, was felled before the action started, weighed out by the narrowest of margins, so the Brocklebank aspirations fell to the 14st Champion, younger brother, Ben.

Jack Brown from Haydon Bridge was still on a high from his All Weights title win at the Cumberland Show, but he had to focus quickly, for his first round opponent was Richard Fox who is capable of buttocking anything that moves. Brown, aware of this, stopped the buttock attempt and rushed him forward for the first fall and then went into attacking mode with hipes and a "twist off the breast" for the second fall.

In the other half of the draw Ben Brocklebank dealt with the threat of Joe Hale of Rothbury and Craig Ridley of Slaggyford mainly by getting them "on the hip", as Iago metaphorically did with Othello four hundred years ago, and wrenching them down. These bouts were enhanced by excellent consolation falls for the losing wrestlers, which kept the drama going.

In the end it came to a show-down between two wrestlers amazingly well matched in physique, experience and skills. In three close fought bouts Brown won the first with an inside-hipe; Brocklebank struck back with the closest of buttocks; and then, finally, Brown changed tactics, saw his chance and dived in with a right leg back heel and a dive to win the title. His purple patch continues.



John Harrington had a good week-end with a win at Skelton in the 11½ stones, a double win at Distington, and one of the falls of the week when he outside-hiped Craig Ridley in the Championship, only to lose the decider.

A new word came into our wrestling...Zakattack...when Zak Singleton won the Under 18s at Skelton. Ryan Armstrong did well to beat Harry Wilson at Distington in two finals.

Finally, let me applaud some really promising youngsters, unknown to me previously: brothers Brent and Tyler Davison from Carlisle, and Alexander Beston of Kendal. Their local academies are queueing to sign them up for winter training on the mats.

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### Skelton

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	Jack Gibson	N Guy	B Glaister
Under 13 Years	M Hodgson	<a href="#">C Wharton</a>	W Hindmarsh
Under 16 Years	<a href="#">M Wharton</a>	Tyler Davidson	<a href="#">M Lamont</a>
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	M Wharton	M Lamont
Ladies	V Beattie	<a href="#">L Elliott</a>	A Hindmarsh
11½ Stones	J Harrington	T Wales	M Wharton
13 Stones World Championship	<a href="#">J Brown</a>	<a href="#">B Brocklebank</a>	<a href="#">C Ridley</a>
All Weights	Jack Hale	<a href="#">R Fox</a>	G Brocklebank

### Langdale Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	N Benson	G Hodgson	
Under 12 Years	<a href="#">R Hodgson</a>	<a href="#">T Charnley</a>	N Guy
Under 15 Years	A Beston	T Hodgson	J Guy
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	I Kelly	R Hodgson
Under 18 Years	A Beston	H Sanderson	T Hodgson
11 Stones	T Hodgson	J Guy	H Anders
13 Stones	A Myers	A Beston	J Guy
Ladies	T Hodgson	H Hodgson	G Coulthard
All Weights	<a href="#">W Hayhurst</a>	<a href="#">A Myers</a>	A Beston

### Distington

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	L Wilson	A Quigley	H Hufton
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	H Wilson	H Hufton
Under 18 Years	R Armstrong	H Wilson	S Swainson
Ladies	C Wilson	L Wilson	A Smith
12½ Stones	J Harrington	S Swainson	C Swindle
All Weights	J Harrington	A Heskett	A Farrer

**July 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### JACK BROWN V JOE HALE - A SEASON LONG CHALLENGE

#### NEWS UPDATES

**Sunday July 16th** - Entries 2pm - Great Eccleston Show U10yrs/ U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Ladies \*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday July 22nd** - 1.15pm Penrith Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

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**Sunday July 23rd** - 2.45pm Coniston U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday July 27th** - 12pm Ambleside FEMALES: U15yrs / 10½st / Ladies Open .

MIXED: U12yrs;

MALES: U15yrs / U18yrs / 8st / 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday July 28th** - 2.30pm - Langholm Common Riding U12yrs / U16yrs / Ladies / 6st / 11½st / 13st / AW

### [2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line](#)

.One of the fascinations for a keen follower of wrestling is when two wrestlers are so evenly matched that you never know who will win throughout the season. That sort of continuous challenge has developed between two champions, Joe Hale of Rothbury and Jack Brown of

Haydon Bridge.

Hale struck first when he took Brown's 12st Championship title from him at the Northumberland Show. Then it was Brown's turn to shine brightly in winning the All Weights title at the Cumberland Show, and the 13 stones at Skelton, felling Hale in both competitions. Last week the tide turned the other way.

Haltwhistle Carnival is Jack Brown's home patch, and he was there socialising with his mates. As always, he wrestled skilfully, but this time he fell short in both the weights he contested when he came up against the Hale brothers, Joe and Jack.



The final of the 13 stones showed their wrestling at its best. Brown took the first fall with a quick buttock that threw both men forward to the ground with Brown keeping his head out of harm's way.

Fall two was fast as well with Hale swirling his man onto a right side outside-stroke. The third fall was one of the best of the day when Hale outside-hiped, then finished any possible survival with a final twist to finish the job.

Jack Hale is born to swinging-hipe; he cannot help himself; it's what he does. Accordingly that's what he did to Jack Brown for the first fall like a smoothly oiled machine.



But, in the second hold Jack Brown was waiting and jumped ahead of the inevitable hipe, landed on his feet, and twisted to win. Was the Hale-hipe neutralised? Would he try a different ploy for the decider? Of course not; only this time it was a bit faster, a bit higher, and won the day.



In the final Jack Hale met the strong, tall Jack Ewart, a stalwart of Carlisle Wrestling Club who had already felled Jack's brother, Joe, in the semi-final. The winning fall for Hale was the classic move: hold – up – hank out – back.

Haltwhistle as usual had its excellent Novice wrestling with Martin Woodburn shining. The Hodgson lasses, Hannah and Rosie had come far and won two categories. Robbie Bulloch continued to win the under 15 with new found flair. The Cansfield brothers Frazer and Jacob contested the Under 18s final; and Gemma Coulthard continued her winning form again in the female wrestling.

On Sunday the noisiest wrestling of the year takes place at Great Eccleston Show, where gigantic tractors rear up, pulling impossible loads.

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### Haltwhistle Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	<a href="#">A Younger</a>	
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	R Armstrong	M Lamont
Under 18 Years	F Cansfield	J Cansfield	R Armstrong
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Ladies All Weights	H Hodgson	R Hodgson	G Coulthard
Novices	<a href="#">M Woodman</a>	R Archer	M Yeats
11½ Stone	M Woodman	R Archer	M Lamont
13 Stone	Joe Hale	J Brown	F Cansfield
All Weights	<a href="#">Jack Hale</a>	<a href="#">J Ewart</a>	J Brown

## July 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

### WRESTLING AND 'POWERFUL BEASTS' - BOTH THE 4 LEGGED AND 2 LEGGED KIND

#### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday July 22nd - 1.15pm Penrith Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW**  
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**Sunday July 23rd - 2.45pm Coniston U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday July 27th - 12pm Ambleside FEMALES: U15yrs / 10½st / Ladies Open .**  
**MIXED: U12yrs;**  
**MALES: U15yrs / U18yrs / 8st / 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday July 28th - 2.30pm - Langholm Common Riding U12yrs / U16yrs / Ladies / 6st / 11½st / 13st / AW**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday July 29th - 1.00pm - Cockermouth Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW**

### 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line

Great Eccleston Show is famous for its immensely powerful beasts: the huge tractors pulling improbable weights and shattering the eardrums. Another powerful beast was let loose in the wrestling ring when Max Carlyle persuaded local man, Karl Etherington to enter for the All Weights event.

Ben Brocklebank, the winner of the 13 stones did take a fall from him in the semi-final, but was unable to finish the job. Even former heavy weight champion, Joe Threlfall was unable to resist the power and went down to two back-heels in the final.

The chief quality of the wrestling at Great Eccleston is the way people enter from the crowd and confirm a proud note in our original rulebook that we are "open to the world". In general the trained wrestlers like the Hodgson family and Thomas Hayhurst had most of the success, but locals gave atmosphere to the event.

In fact, in some ways, there were too many entries, and for the second year in a row, this led to difficulties of scheduling in the main ring. Firstly the wrestling was held back for an hour and a half, and then allocated a slot of one hour which was not long enough for the number of entries, and the wrestling continued as furniture for a horse event was erected beside the bouts.

Wrestling can never be confined to a strict time schedule because there are too many variables, and this makes for problems in a shared ring. The wrestling ambience at Skelton Show, Grasmere and this year at the Cumberland Show, is so much improved by a separate ring encircled by the crowd.

In the past Great Eccleston had its own wrestling ring, but so remote and on the fringes that it felt lost. Wrestling organiser, David Parsons, hopes a satisfactory compromise can be found to keep our wrestling shining in Lancashire.

One of the competitors, Cesare Giombetti, learned his wrestling in Sicily where the style was much the same as here and in Sardinia. Traditional wrestling retains a hold in several areas of Europe, and was part of a news item in Wednesday's "Guardian" which was illustrated by a Schwingen wrestling ring high in the Alps, with the Matterhorn in the background. A 25 year old woman, born in Switzerland to Turkish parents, who had lived her entire life there, "I don't know any other life", had her application for citizenship turned down by a local jury for her lack of local knowledge. She was persona non grata because she did not know what Schwingen was.

This country would be well thinned out if residence depended on knowledge of C&W wrestling. Nevertheless Unesco did confer World Heritage Status on the Lake District, and wrestling had its place in the cultural heritage aspect of the application. In a former article I did say that there is nowhere to stick a plaque on C&W Wrestling, but I have had second thoughts. How about the equivalent to a plaque embroidered on the backside of a champion's centrepiece as it circles the ring at Grasmere?



On Saturday July 22nd at Penrith Show, two handsome silver trophies will be presented for the wrestling after a CWWA Board meeting decided to use a few of the trophies from the George Steadman collection held by the Cumbria Archives.

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#### Great Ecclestone Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under10 Years	H Waterhouse	S Molyneux	E Whitestyle
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	J Darbyshire	M Stainton
Under 15 Years	T Hodgson	L Walker	M Stainton
Under 18 Years	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson	J Scarborough
Ladies	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	R Hodgson
13 Stone	B Brocklebank	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson
All Weights	K Etherington	J Threlfall	C Giambetti

PENRITH AND CONISTON SHOWS

NEWS UPDATES

Friday July 28th - 2.30pm - Langholm Common Riding U12yrs / U16yrs / Ladies / 6st / 11½st / 13st / AW

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Saturday July 29th - 2pm Beetham Sports U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies Open / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday July 29th - 1.00pm - Cockermouth Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday August 2nd - 2pm - Cartmel Show U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 5th - Powburn

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday August 6th - 12.30 Gilsland Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13½st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday August 6th - Lunesdale Show U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / U18 & 10st Championship / Girls U17yrs / LadiesOpen / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



Twenty-two millimetres of rain fell in my garden last Saturday, and the same applied to the wrestling ring at Penrith Show; the ring looked like a recently drained paddy field. Despite that, a goodly crowd gathered and the wrestlers came from all parts.

One of the best duels of the afternoon was between two young giants, George Wilson of Kendal and Zak Singleton of Rothbury. They first met



in the Under 18's final when George was the master, back-heeling the hiper for the first fall, and riding the hipe to counter for the second. In the All Weights it was all change, and Zak got his hipe going and marched through the rounds. He even felled Jack Halein the semi-final. The first fall Zak lost by involuntarily doing the splits in the oily conditions, but he gathered himself to execute two fine hipes, inside and outside

That brought him up against David Barnes who is a more occasional wrestler, but dangerous with it: a big man able to do lightweight style moves. The hank which disposed of Graham Brocklebank was one of the falls of the week. In the final against Singleton, Barnes was more controlled and assertive, taking the first fall with an outside-hipe and a nudge, and for the second fall catching Zak as he came across for an easy sit down.



Despite the conditions the standard of wrestling was at its highest. Mark Wharton in his last days as Under 15 Years Champion was hiping for England, swinging his opponents high before splattering them in the squelch. The final of the 11½st was a classic between two of our cleverest and most experienced wrestlers, John Harrington and Andrew Carlile. Carlile's superb defensive skills meant that Harrington had to be at his best to get anywhere, and he still managed to win with two spectacular and wonderfully neat hipes. Harrington then went on to wrestle up to Jack Brown in the 13st final.



On the following day at Coniston John Harrington continued his winning ways, but the event was chiefly notable for a double win for Graham Brocklebank who at last gained a win against the 13st scales after a long series of nearly nude defeats. Watch out Ambleside and Grasmere.

There were few senior wrestlers at Coniston, but the youngsters kept a big crowd happy round a wide ring. Individual falls from Myles Stainton and from the Chamley brothers of Grassington bodes well for the future. And Rosie Hodgson continues her successful campaign in the Under 12 years at both Coniston and Penrith.

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#### Penrith Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	J Wharton	T Charnley
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	R Bulloch	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	Z Singleton	M Wharton
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	V Beattie	G Coulthard
11½ Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	M Wharton
13 Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	A Carlile
All Weights	D Barnes	Z Singleton	Jack Hale

#### Coniston Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	F McRobbie
Under 15 Years	M Hodgson	M Jamie	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	M Hodgson	J Charnley	T Hodgson
Ladies	C Hodgson	R Hodgson	H Hodgson
11½ Stone	J Harrington	M Hodgson;	T Hodgson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Harrington	A Myers
All Weights	G Brocklebank	A Myers	J Harrington

YOUTH OUTNUMBERS EXPERIENCE AT 5 SHOWS LAST WEEK

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday August 5th - 2.30 - Powburn U10yrs / U13yrs / U16yrs / Ladies Open / 11½st / AW / Local Novice

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Sunday August 6th - 12.30 Gilsland Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13½st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday August 8th - - Lunesdale Show - CANCELLED

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday August 10th - 11.30 Appleby Show - U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies Open / 11st / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday August 10th Ings Sheepdog Trials CANCELLED

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 12th - 2.00 Dalston Show - U12yrs / U15ys / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 12th - Slaley Show - 3.30 U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U18yrs / 12st / 14st / AW / Girls U15yrs / Ladies Open

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday August 13th - Forestburngate

\*\*\*\*\*

**2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line**

Five wrestling events over the last week have given plenty of opportunities for the keenest wrestlers; and the likes of Rosie Hodgson of Dent has revelled in it with four firsts and several places. The main pattern, though is the strength of the Junior wrestling and the comparative paucity of the Seniors: *"There's a shortage of men,"* said Alf Harrington on the mike at Cockermonth Show, and that applied elsewhere.

At Ambleside the strength of the youngsters was wonderfully demonstrated in the first wrestling competition of the day, which was for local schools. For a few years Ambleside Sports has sponsored the Kendal coach, John Wilson, to take whole school wrestling sessions at Grasmere, Ambleside, Langdale and Coniston. Those sessions are coming to fruition, with John finding improvement, year by year. In the Ambleside ring Jessica Benson felled Alfie Wilkin in the final, and later after Beetham Sports, Chris Bland was enthusing about *"a young boy from Ambleside called Alfie Wilkin wrestled with great skill & determination in the younger classes & won some very good falls but no prizes. Without doubt he is a "natural" & if he sticks at the sport I would predict that he could be a future star. He was winning falls which excited the crowd."*



In the meantime, amongst the men, Jack Brown won at both 11½ and 12½ stones to gain the Guinness trophy for the best performance; Richard Walton, a fitness trainer from Consett and a son of Alan Walton, took the 14 stones by storm with his positive style, meaning that last year's triple winners, the Brocklebank family, had won nothing. That barren situation was spectacularly remedied when the three brothers took all three places in the All Weights, with Thomas leading the charge.



Graham Brocklebank was going better as the week went on, taking his first win at Beetham Sports and the notching up a double at Cartmel Show. Richard Fox and John Harrington are also notching up the wins as their form improves.



They were taking the honours at Cockermouth and Langholm, but some of the greatest crowd pleasers were the occasional wrestlers coming out of the crowd to compete. You can feel the atmosphere lift at Langholm when the Jammeh brothers and "Big L" take on the professionals.

Unfortunately, the rain has become a factor in our wrestling, and the accumulated saturation has brought two cancellations next week at Lunesdale Show, Kirkby Lonsdale, and The Ings Sheepdog Trials. Typically, the notice from Ings commented, *"The landowners have not been able to get their second cut silage off yet and are unlikely to be able to prior to the 10th."*

Many retired wrestlers gathered at the funeral of Bob McGregor, a great stalwart of our sport. When the Carlisle Wrestling Club started up again in 1970, he appeared out of nowhere, both as a prodigious performer, but also as a mentor for a group of young Longtown lads whom he brought to the Club and Summer events. He nearly won the All Weights championship at Egremont in 1981 when "he did all the damage" to the main contenders, but went down himself to John Gardhouse in the final. He is remembered for his gentle wit and the time he wrestled at Newcastleton in the rain, refusing to take his oilskins off.

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#### Ambleside Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Local Junior Schools	J Benson (Langdale)	A Wilkin (Ambleside)	R Goodsmith (Grasmere)
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	J Charnley	J Wharton
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	J Benson
8 Stone	T Benson	M Bates	J Gibson
Under 15 years	T Davidson	R Armstrong	M Lamont
Under 18 years	G Wilson	F Cansfield	Z Singleton

Event	First	Second	Third
Ladies 10½ Stone	C Hodgson	A Hindmarsh	G Coulthard
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	V Beattie
11½ Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	J Harrington
12½ Stone	J Brown	B Brocklebank	A Myers
14 Stone	R Walton	G Brocklebank	J Harrington.
All Weights	T Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	G Brocklebank
GuinnessTrophy	Jack Brown		

#### Langholm Common Riding

Event	First	Second	Third
6 Stone	W Hindmarsh	C Imrie	L Imrie
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	C McMillan	J Wharton
Under 16 Years	C Tait	P Friel	M Hodgson
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh
11½ Stone	J Harrington	Big L	W Jammeh
13 Stone	R Fox	J Harrington	C Friel
All Weights	R Fox	S Jammeh	B Samson

#### Cockermouth Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Wharton	O Mawson	L Bancroft
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	M Hodgson	H Wilson
Under 18 Years	M Ratcliffe	R Armstrong	H Wilson
Ladies	G Coulthard	Y Slack	K Armstrong
11½ Stone	J Harrington	R Armstrong	J Gibson
13 Stone	J Harrington	J Hall	M Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	J Harrington	W Adeyman

#### Beetham Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	J Charnley	M Stainton
Under 14 Years	A Beston	T Benson	D Haywood
Under 16 Years	A Beston	T Benson	M Stainton
Under 18 Years	Joshua Threlfall	T Benson	A Beston
Girls Under 17 Years	R Hodgson	N Richardson	J Benson
Ladies Open	A Bradshaw	R Hodgson	N Richardson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	T Benson	Joshua Threlfall
All Weights	Joe Threlfall	G Brocklebank	Joshua Threlfall

#### Cartmel Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	M Benson	L Date	G Hodgson
Under 12 years	T Wilson	R Hodgson	E Beston
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	A Beston	T Benson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	R Armstrong	J Crottie
Ladies Open	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	E Beston
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Crottie	A Beston
All Weights	G Brocklebank	S Wilkinson	G Wilson

**THE CANCELLED 'UNDER 18 & 10 STONE' CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT IS NOW HOSTED IN A NEW HOME.**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday August 12th - 12.00 Dalston Show - U12yrs / U15ys / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13st / AW**

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**Saturday August 12th - Slaley Show - 3.30 U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U18yrs / 12st / 14st / AW / Girls U15yrs / Ladies Open**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday August 13th - Forestburngate**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday August 19th - Allendale \*\*\*\*\***

**Saturday August 19th - 2pm Gosforth Show U9yrs / U11yrs / U13yrs / U15yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / U18yrs / 7st / 10½st Ch'ship / 13st / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday August 20th - Torver \*\*\*\*\***

**Thursday August 24th - Grayrigg Show U18 and 10st Ch'ship**

**2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line**



The CWWA Championship for lads who are under 18 Years of age and under ten stones in weight has a new home. The event should have been part of the wrestling programme at the Lunesdale Show at Kirkby Lonsdale, but that had to be cancelled because of the soggy weather. The wonders of the internet were harnessed to have a virtual Governing Board meeting to choose from two wrestling events which were willing to put on the championship at short notice.

The outcome is that Grayrigg Show on Thursday 24th August will be the host, so the event remains in the southern end of our region within easy reach for Kendal and Milnthorpe Academy wrestlers. For Rothbury Academy, with its wealth of young wrestlers, it is just another date to hire the Community Bus.

Certainly last week's wrestling was kept afloat by the Northumbrians' willingness to travel for they featured highly at both Powburn Show and at Gilsland. Thomas, the son of Rothbury coach, Jason Davidson, was one of the chief beneficiaries for he was felling Robbie Bulloch in the Under 16s final at Powburn and then going on to hipe his way to wins in the Under 16s and 11½ stones at Gilsland with wrestling that lit up the day amongst the universal dampness.



Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge also had wins at both events and may well have hoped to do even better, but was felled by the young Rothbury giant, Zak Singleton at Powburn in the All Weights, and then was beaten by the scales at Gilsland for the 11½ stones. Some great hiping took him ahead of Richard Fox in 13½ stones, but Fox regrouped and came charging back with extra control felling Brown with back-heels rather

than his trademark buttocking.



The quality of wrestling is always helped when two wrestlers in the same club are so closely matched that neither is certain of winning. This is the case with Robbie Bulloch and Thomas Davidson. Davison had more wins in their exchanges, but Robbie Bulloch had a satisfying win in the Under 15s at Gilsland. Of course the final took three falls to sort out, but Bulloch came out on top with a deciding fall when he countered Davidson's hipe.

The Hindmarsh family, too, can be well satisfied with the weekend's wrestling. William had to be at his best to fell Aaron Younger in the Under 13s at Powburn, and sister Anna did even better to come away with three wins. Two of them were an easy matter for her when she was far ahead of the opposition, but in the Ladies Open at Gilsland she had to draw on all her new found and developing powers. She won a long challenging bout against Laura Elliot and then had to come back from a fall down in the final. Kerry Scott from Wigton took the first fall with a back heel, but Anna came buttocking back for a close win that warmed up the damp crowd.

Gilsland also hosted a grand opening for the wrestling when an extra age-group was added for all the smaller wrestlers keen to take part. When Jason Beattie felled Joshua Thompson in the final of the Under 9s they set a standard of excellence for the rest to follow.

In my search online for the wrestling categories for Allendale Show I was surprised to be invited to "Join us for a Saturday fleamarket with vintage finds, handmade goods, rust, antiques, farm salvage and more!" and to see the rows of wrestlers in a photo from Allendale High School. The only problem was that it was Allendale in Michigan, USA

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#### Powburn Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	W Fellows	R Atkinson	W Wilkins
Under 13 Years	W Hindmarsh	A Younger	F Cairns
Under 16 Years	T Davidson	R Bulloch	M Bates
11½ Stone	J Brown	R Bulloch	T Davidson
Ladies	A Hindmarsh	R Wilde	
All Weights	Z Singleton	T Davidson	J Brown
Local Novices	Z Singleton	T Davidson	W Hind

#### Gilsland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	J Beattie	J Thompson	J-L Stainton
Under 12 Years	A Younger	.R Hodgson	J Thompson
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	T Davidson	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	T Davidson	R Bulloch	T Hodgson
Girls Under 17 Years	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson	E Stainton
Ladies Open	A Hindmarsh	K Scott	L Elliot
11½ Stone	T Davidson	R Bulloch	T Hodgson
13½ Stone	J Brown	R Fox	R Walton
All Weights	R Fox	J Brown	R Walton

TRIPLE WINNERS ABOUND AT 4 EVENTS

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday August 19th - Allendale U12/U15/U18/Ladies/11½st/13st/AW \*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 19th - 2pm Gosforth Show U9yrs / U11yrs / U13yrs / U15yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / U18yrs / 7st / 10½st Ch'ship / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday August 20th - Torver U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume \*\*\*\*\*

Thursday August 24th - Grayrigg Show U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / U18yrs & 10st Ch'ship / U18yrs / 11½st / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 26th - 12pm Holm Show, Newcastleton U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 26th - 3.30 Bellingham U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Novice / Ladies 10st / Ladies / 7st / 12st/ 14st Ch'ship /AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 26th - 2.30 Millom & Broughton U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs Local / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday August 27th - 11am Grasmere U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Female: U15yrs / U18yrs / 10st / AW

Male: 8st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday August 28th - 11.30 Silloth U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday August 28th - 3.00 Keswick U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11st Ch'ship / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday August 28th - 3.30 Black Combe U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U10yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW

2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge had a week-end to savour when he attended three events and won six weights. He began quietly enough at Dalston Show with a single win; doubled that success at Slaley Show later that afternoon; and on the Sunday against major opposition won all three men's weights at Forestburngate. Weighing in at under 12 stones, he stands well clear of six foot, with long bones for leverage and sinewy strength to attack and defend.



Three female wrestlers each had triple wins: Gemma Coulthard ruled the roost at Appleby and Dalston before jetting off to Cyprus; Anna Hindmarsh did the same at Slaley and Forestburngate; and Rosie Hodgson still battling against the lads in the Under 12 Years was only beaten in the final at Appleby by Joe Charnley. The three girls all come from farming families and know how to cowp a sheep and hoist a bale. Anna and Rosie live more than a hundred miles apart in remarkably similar circumstances in remote Pennine valleys: Anna in Coquetdale and Rosie in Dentdale. Despite the distances involved the two families are the best followers of all the wrestling action.



Zak Singleton of Rothbury also had three wins. His success in his Under 18s age category is scarcely surprising as he stands at six foot five, weighs 17 stones, has a good wrestling brain, and finishes falls with a forward roll. In the men's All Weights he is pushed harder, but still managed to hipe Joe Threlfall before the Preston wrestler took the next two with powerful twists over the knee, and came out on top of the pile at Slaley.



In my notebook recording scores of bouts last week, there are only two asterisks for falls that caught my eye as being in a class beyond excellent: for Ryan Armstrong's inside hipe that finished off Harry Wharton in the 11½ stones at Appleby; and for Cade Whitfield's hank of Joe Hale in the



deciding fall of the Under 21s at

Forestburngate.

Finally, a tribute to Jason Davidson, not only the Rothbury coach, but their bus driver, the groundsman who prepared the ring at Forestburngate, the referee who kept the action going, and father of Emily and Thomas who were both winners this week.

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#### Appleby Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 years	M Benson	B Wilkin	T Armstrong
Under 12 years	J Charnley	R Hodgson	J Wharton
Under 15 Years	T Hodgson	H Wharton	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	I Dent	R Armstrong	T Hodgson
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
Ladies	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
11½ Stone	R Armstrong	H Wharton	T Benson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	C Hitchcock	T Benson
All Weights	T Brocklebank	C Hitchcock	G Brocklebank

#### Dalston Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	J Charnley	J Wharton
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	R Armstrong	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	C Whitfield	J Gibson
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	P Bowman
11½ Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	M Kirkham
13 Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	A Carlile
All Weights	J Threlfall	Z Singleton	J Brown

#### Slaley

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	S Nichol	E Stainton	
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	C Thorpe
Under 14 Years	T Hodgson	M Bates	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	C Whitfield	T Davidson
Girls Under 15 Years	A Hindmarsh	L Thorpe	R Hodgson
Ladies	A Hindmarsh	A Bates	H Thorpe
12 Stone	J Brown	C Whitfield	T Davidson
14 Stone	J Brown	C Whitfield	T Davidson
All Weights	Z Singleton	S Golightly	J Threlfall

#### Forestburngate

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	F Renwick	W Wilkins	L Mason
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	F Cairns	T Thompson
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	G Singer	O Mason
Under 21 Years	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson	H Dennis
Girls Under 15 Years	C Whitfield	Joe Hale	Z Singleton
Ladies	E Davidson	R Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
12½ Stone	J Brown	Joe Hale	C Whitfield
15 Stone	J Brown	Joe Hale	F Cansfield
All Weights	J Brown	Jack Hale	Joe Hale

**ALLENDALE, GOSFORTH AND TORVER HOSTED EVENTS LAST WEEK**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday August 26th - 12pm Holm Show, Newcastleton U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW**

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**Saturday August 26th - 3.30 Bellingham U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Novice / Ladies 10st / Ladies / 7st / 12st / 14st Ch'ship /AW**

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**Saturday August 26th - 2.30 Millom & Broughton U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs Local / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday August 27th - 11am Grasmere U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Female: U15yrs / U18yrs / 10st / AW**

**Male: 8st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday August 28th - 11am Silloth - 11st Ch'ship / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW**

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**Monday August 28th - 3.00 Keswick CANCELLED**

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**Monday August 28th - 3.30 Black Combe U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U10yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW**

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**Wednesday August 30th- 2.30 Ennerdale U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday August 31st - 12.30 Crosby Ravensworth - U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW**

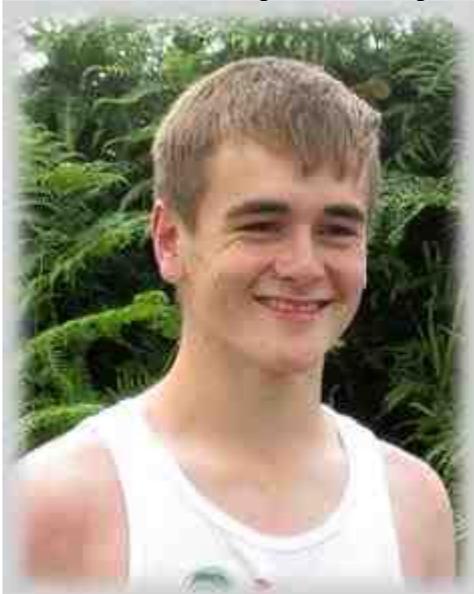
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**Friday September 1st - 6.30 Rothbury Mart U9yrs / U11yrs / U13yrs / 15yrs Ch'ship / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies 10½st / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13½st / 15st / AW**

**2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line**



Three very different events took place last week, spread out round our wrestling area: Allendale in Northumberland; Gosforth in remotest West Cumbria; and Torver Country Fair near Lake Coniston. Separate as they were, they each had remarkable points of similarity. Firstly, and very importantly, good solid crowds packed round the ring. The youths and female wrestling was lively, skilful and well received. Then there was a sort of hiatus with a shortage of middleweight men, before the event surged again to a climax with good All Weights wrestling.



The most prestigious competition of the week-end was the 10½st Championship held at Gosforth. Entry numbers were poor, but the quality of the wrestling was excellent. At the semi-final stage the local star, Michael Kirkham, who

does so much for Waberthwaite Academy, met Northumbrian Gus Singer who had travelled over a hundred miles from Scots Gap to take part. Gus had warmed up well by winning the Under 15s and reaching the final of the Under 18s, but the canny strategy of Kirkham took the falls with a leg-up and a rush off the right hip. In the other semi-final Mark Wharton of Thursby hiped and rushed Harry Wilson. This meant that the final was between the hiper, Mark Wharton, and the clever ground wrestler, Michael Kirkham. Unexpectedly, Wharton became the ground wrestler taking the first fall with a neat outside stroke. Then after a dog-fall, he went for broke with a full-out buttock that sent both wrestlers horizontally in the air just above the landing site, and Mark Wharton was the new 10½st Champion.

The Whartons have graced the sport for three generations of gifted wrestling, and Mark is keeping that fine tradition alive.



At Allendale, the Davidson family did well with Thomas Davidson winning twice and keeping just ahead of Robbie Bulloch, whilst sister Emily was unstoppable with her step over cross-buttock in both female classes. A fine feature of the Allendale wrestling was the dynamic encounters of



Jack Brown and Richard Walton who each had a win.

At Torver the crowd was so dense when I arrived that I had to crawl between legs to get a camera position. The youths' bouts were enlivened by three great wrestling families: the Bensons, Hodgsons, and Charnleys who all live up rocky valleys in the hills, but it was Ryan Armstrong from the soft Carlisle hinterland at Low Hesket who did best of all with three wins. After the anti-climax of the 13 stones, the programme rolled on to an All Weights of peculiar intensity with Icelanders, a Scot, Joe Threlfall and the Brocklebank brothers all in the mix. In the end it was a triumph for the Brocklebanks, tested to their limits but walking away smiling.

STOP PRESS (I've always wanted to do that): Keswick Show is cancelled on the Bank Holiday Monday because of the state of the car-parking fields. The 11st Championship was scheduled for that event, but now has to find a new home. As I type this, moves are afoot to change the championship venue to Silloth Carnival, which takes place earlier on the same day. Final details will be on Facebook and the CWWA website.

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#### Allendale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 years	A Younger	F Priestley	D Dalton
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	M Bates	K Pepper
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	T Davidson	R Bulloch
Girls Under 17 Years	E Davidson	C Priestley	A Bates
Ladies	E Davidson	L Elliott	C Priestley
11½ Stone	T Davidson	R Bulloch	W Hunter

Event	First	Second	Third
13 Stone	R Walton	J Brown	T Davidson
All Weights	J Brown	R Walton	J Thompson

#### Gosforth Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	O Mawson	M Fawcett	S Pitts
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	J Pritt
Under 15 Years	G Singer	H Wilson	J Harrison
Under 18 Years	M Wharton	G Singer	T Benson
Girls Under 15 Years	R Hodgson	J Benson	L Wilson
Ladies Open	R Hodgson	K Scott	J Benson
7 Stone	J Pritt	M Stainton	M Benson
10½ Stone Championship	M Wharton	M Kirkham	H Wilson
13 Stone	M Wharton	H Wilson	
All Weights	D Fleming	C Naylor	J Ellwood

#### Torver

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Charnley	R Hodgson	T Charnley
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	T Hodgson	T Benson
Under 18 Years	R Armstrong	T Hodgson	M Hodgson
Ladies	M Runnarsdottir	A Webb	A Dutton
11 ½ Stone	R Armstrong;	T Benson	T Hodgson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	R Armstrong	M Hodgson
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	G Logarson

## September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

14 EVENTS IN 9 DAYS; 3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BRETONS AND ICELANDERS HERE IN FORCE!

#### NEWS UPDATES

Friday September 1st - 6.30 Rothbury Mart U9yrs / U11yrs / U13yrs / **U15yrs Ch'ship** / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies 10½st / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13½st / 15st / AW

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Saturday September 2nd - 3.15 Heskett Newmarket U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / **Ladies 10st Ch'ship** / Novice / 12½st

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday September 2nd - 3pm Lowick U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday September 2nd - 2pm Harbottle U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / Novice / 12st / AW

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday September 3rd - 12 noon Wolsingham U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / AW

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Sunday September 3rd - 2.30 Loweswater U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line

The present period of the C&W wrestling season is the most frenetic ever...or I'm getting old. With fourteen events in nine days, including Grasmere and three championships, the Bretons are here in force with two minibuses holding six men and six female wrestlers all trained and dangerous, the Icelanders with their massive frames have put an extra challenge into some of the All Weights events, and the Scots have made their mark, too.

Yet despite all the pressure, our home-bred wrestlers have come through it all with heads held high. At Grasmere, our premier event, the Bretons won two events but in general it was Kendal Academy and the Brocklebank family in particular who were dominant.

Three championships were held and all three went to wrestlers from Carlisle Wrestling Club: Mark Wharton became a triple champion when he added the Under 18 Years/10st title to the 10½ stones from the previous week and the Under 15 Years still in his possession from 2016. Jack Brown won the 14st title in the superb wrestling ring at Bellingham Show to gain his third title of 2017, and at Silloth Andrew Carlile won the 11st Championship for the ninth time.

With so much wrestling to savour, my mind flashes from one image to the next: Max Bates, at Grasmere, the smallest wrestler around with two cups for the best performance in the junior wrestling. The new slim-line Connie Hodgson, outnumbered and outweighed by the fine Breton contingent failing only once to win the day. Three fine wrestlers, Ben and Graham Brocklebank and Richard Fox, all bruised and battered from old injuries, still finding the quality and the edge to win at Grasmere. Andrew Carlile battling his past David Miller in the 11st Championship final, then going on to win the 13 stones as well. At Ennerdale we saw the fresh, raw power of Cameron Bland of Borrowdale who was probably only there to show sheep, and also the canny undemonstrative skill of John Harrington negotiating his way through the Bretons, culminating in a double swinging-hippe to dispose of Goulven Tassel.

And then there was the wildlife: a frog hopping around in the Holm Show ring as two Bretons met, and at Ennerdale a bee which took a dislike to John Harrington and stung him on the foot, just to sharpen him up a bit.

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#### Grayrigg Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 7 Years	J-L Stainton	J Armistead	C Hodgson
Under 9 Years	B Dodgson	G Hodgson	A Knowlers
Under 12 Years	J Charnley	T Wilson	R Hodgson
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	T Hodgson	J Gibson
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	L Quillien	R Hodgson
Under 18 Years / 10 Stone Champ'ship	M Wharton	T Wilson	Z Michat
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	A Berezai
11½ Stones	H Coail	G Tassel	Z Michat
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	H Coail	A Berezai
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	C Le Gallo	G Coulthard
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Logarsson	G Brocklebank

#### Holm Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 13 Years	M Hodgson	J Wharton	A Younger
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	R Bulloch	A Younger
Under 18 Years	R Bulloch	Z Michat	A Berezai
Ladies	C Hodgson	C Le Gallo	A Le Piolet
12½ Stones	J Harrington	H Coail	C Le Gall
All Weights	R Fox	J Harrington	Y Pansard

#### Bellingham Show

Event	First	Second	Third
7 Stone	W Hindmarsh	M Stainton	J Renwick
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	A Younger	M Stainton
Under 16 Years	R Bulloch	M Hodgson	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	A Berezai	Z Michat	R Bulloch

Event	First	Second	Third
Novices	Y Pansard	C Le Gall	G Tassel
Ladies 10 Stone	C Hodgson	A Rolland	L Brown
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	A Le Piolet	P Sellin
12 Stone	B Brocklebank	J Harrington	Joe Hale
14 Stones Championship	J Brown	B Brocklebank	A Jones
All Weights	T Brocklebank	J Brown	B Brocklebank

#### Millom and Broughton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	T Dennison	A Brown	H Capstick
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	M Capstick	J Pritt
Local Under 15 Years	J Southward	B Dobson	M Fawcett
Under 16 Years	J Southward	T Wilson	R Craghill
Under 18 Years	R Albion	B Dobson	J Harrison
Ladies	L Albion	C Forrester	C Southward
12 Stones	A Pritt	R Albion	J Southward
All Weights	M Preston	P Payne	R Albion

#### Grasmere Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	R Hodgson	A Younger
8 Stones	M Bates	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	R Armstrong	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	Z Singleton	A Berezai
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	K Cordukes
Girls Under 18 Years	A Rolland	G Coulthard	S Rorrison
Girls 10 Stones	C Hodgson	T Coique-Loquen	L Quiller
11 Stones	H Coail	S Wilson	A Carlile
12 Stones	B Brocklebank	C Le Gall	A Carlile
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	J Brown	B Brocklebank
14 stones	R Fox	P Craig	J Brown
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	T Coique-Loquen	H Hodgson
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Wilson	G S Gunnarsson

#### Silloth Carnival

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	C Armstrong	M Kent-Carlile	S Kent-Carlile
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	M Stainton	R Hodgson
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	J Gibson	T Wilson
Under 18 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	A Berezai
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
8 Stones	M Hodgson	C Wharton	J Gibson
11 Stones Championship	A Carlile	D Miller	S Wilson
13 Stones	A Carlile	J Harrington	D Miller
Ladies	P Sellin	J Harrison	C Le Gallo
All Weights	J Harrington	D Miller	A Berezai

#### ENNERDALE SHOW

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	A Spedding	H Naylor	T Campbell
Under 15 Years	P Culinan	H Naylor	A Spedding

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 18 Years	C Bland	M Wharton	A Berezai
Ladies	C Le Gallo	A Rolland	A Le Piolet
12½ Stone	J Harrington	G Tassel	M Wharton
All Weights	Y Pansard	J Harrington	Z Michat

## September 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

THIS WEEK: 56 CATEGORIES AT 7 EVENTS PLUS 2 CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR GOOD MEASURE!

### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday September 9th** - Stanhope Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / U21yrs / Girls U17yrs / **Ladies AW Championship** / 12½st / AW  
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**Sunday September 10th** - 2.30pm Whitfield U12yrs / **U15yrs and 8st Championship** / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday September 14th** - 1.30pm Westmorland Show - U12yrs / Girls U17yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / U21yrs and 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday September 16th** - 2.00pm Egremont Crab Fair U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / **15st Championship** / AW  
\*\*\*\*\*

## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line

This week's wrestling report covers fifty six categories spread over seven events, including the sport's only dedicated indoor event at Rothbury Mart. Two championship events were held, with Connie Hodgson of Dent retaining her 10st Ladies title at Heskett Newmarket, and Thomas Davidson winning the Under 15 Years Championship at Rothbury Mart within walking distance of home.

Thomas Davidson has always been a well trained wrestler from his early years, but as this season progressed, you could see new dimensions in the way he performed. He had more power and confidence to go for his trips, particularly the inside-hip. In the final with Gus Singer he mainly relied on twists and wrestling skills rather than single throws. His father, Jason, and granddad, Kenny, both champions in their day must be very proud that the family tradition is in good hands.





This last fortnight has seen Connie Hodgson at her best, and necessarily so, for the six Breton Girls who have been added to the usual mix of wrestlers this year brought weight, technical skill and wrestling nous to push Connie to the limits. Now weighing in at less than 10 stones, she has to rely on her wrestling skills more than her power these days. At the Ladies 10st Championship at Hesket Newmarket she nevertheless met her own sister, Hannah, in the final. And just to prove it wasn't a fluke, they were the finalists in the Open Ladies event, too.

This week's events varied greatly in the numbers of wrestlers present, but at two of the most intense events, Rothbury Mart and Wolsingham Show, Jack Brown and Jack Hale stood head and shoulders above the rest. Jack Brown was on his best form at Rothbury, winning twice and featuring in the places in the heaviest categories. As a result he was adjudged the best wrestler. Jack Hale at first wrestled without his trademark hipes, but as time went on his exuberance expanded and the likes of the big Breton, Yan Pansard, flew on a couple of swinging hipes.

No account of the past fortnight would be complete without a tribute to the Bretons, six lads and six lasses, brought over in two minibuses by our great friend in Europe, Christian Salaun. They attended every event possible, wrestled skilfully throughout, giving our home wrestlers unexpected problems, and above all acquitted themselves with sportsmanship of the highest level.

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#### Crosby Ravensworth

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	S Nichol	B Newton	E-A Stainton
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	J Newton	T Harrison
Under 16 yrs	M Stainton	J Newton	T Harrison
Under 18 yrs	A Berezai	Z Michat	
Ladies Open	A Le Piolet	A Rolland	L Quillien
13 Stones	H Coail	G Tassel	A Berezai
All Weights	Y Pansard	H Coail	T Hodgson

#### Rothbury Mart

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	J-L Stainton	R Atkins	E-A Stainton
Under 11 Years	J Charnley	R Hodgson	A Younger
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	M Bates	A Younger
<b>Under 15 Years Championship</b>	T Davidson	G Singer	M Lamont
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	C Whitfield	Z Singleton
Girls 10½ Stone	C Hodgson	A Le Piolet	H Hodgson
Ladies	C Hodgson	P Sellin	C Le Gallo
11½ Stones	J Brown	H Coail	C Whitfield
13½ Stones	J Brown	R Fox	J Harrington

Event	First	Second	Third
15 Stones	Jack Hale	C Whitfield;	J Brown
All Weights	Jack Hale	J Brown	J Ewart

#### Hesket Newmarket

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	J Wharton
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	T Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	T Hodgson	A Berezai
Ladies 10 Stone Championship	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	A Rolland
Ladies All Weights*	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
Novices	A Berezai	G Tassel	Z Michat
12½ Stones	J Harrington	M Wharton	H Coail
All Weights*	Z Singleton	J Harrington	A Carlile

#### Harbottle Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	W Fellowes	W Wood	F Renwiwk
Under 12 Years	A Younger	J Charnley	T Charnley
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	R Bulloch	F Roberts
Girls Under 15 Years	H Dennis	K Nixon	
Ladies	C Le Gallo	A Le Piolet	P Sellin
Novices	S Lamont	Bryan	C Le Gall
12 Stones	J Brown	M Lamont	T Davidson
All Weights	Jack Hale	Y Pansard	J Brown

#### Lowick

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	A Irving	T Case	N Guy
Under 15 Years	B Albion	N Guy	J Guy
Under 18 Years	R Albion	H Oliver	B Albion
Ladies	C Dawson	L Albion	
12 Stones	R Albion	H Oliver	J Guy
All Weights	T Brocklebank	R Albion	G Brocklebank

#### Wolsingham

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	H Gooden	A Gooden
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	A Berezai	Z Michat
Girls Under 17 Years*	L Quillien	R Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
Ladies	C Hodgson	P Sellin	A Le Piolet
11½ Stones	A Carlile	A Berezai	Z Michat
14 Stones	J Brown	G Tassel	A Carlile
All Weights	J Hale;	J Brown	Z Singleton

#### Loweswater

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	R Bennet	K Hall	M Barlow
Under 12 Years	C Creighton	N Welford	A Hall
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong;	P Culinan	N Welford
Under 18 Years	R Armstrong;	N Welford	P Culinan
Ladies	K Armstrong	L Meier	C Creighton

Event	First	Second	Third
12½ Stones	J Harrington	J Welford	R Armstrong
All Weights	John Harrington	H Bessington	P Murray

## September 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

TWO CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS AND THE HODGSON AND GIBSON FAMILIES DOMINATE THE WEEK'S EVENTS.

### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday September 16th - 2.00pm Egremont Crab Fair U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / 15st Championship / AW**

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**Saturday September 16th -Thropton Show U11yrs / U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / GirlsU15yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW**

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**Saturday September 23rd - 12.00 - Langholm Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW**

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**Saturday September 23rd - Upper Redesdale Show**

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## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



Two families and an individual dominated last week's wrestling. The Hodgson family from Dentdale together won seven categories at Stanhope Show and Whitfield Village Fair. The Gibson lads from Southwaite, near Carlisle had three significant wins. And Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge had four first places all on his own.

The weekend also saw two championship events decided: the Ladies All Weights at Stanhope, and the Boys Under 15 Years/8stones at Whitfield, both of which were fiercely contested and high on skill factors.



Connie Hodgson, the holder of the Ladies All Weights title, found herself in real jeopardy in the first round when her travelling companion and sister, Hannah, set about her as I have never seen before. Inside-hipe followed inside-hipe as Connie just managed to gain a toe-hold to survive, all the time listening to a running commentary from Hannah, "I nearly got you there." In the final she met Gemma Coulthard who had been wrestling well, but was unable to cope with Connie's extra power. A rush off the right side finished it all, and once more Connie Hodgson was

the double Ladies Champion.



The Under 15 Years/8st Championship brought together a group of lads who are going through a tough patch: they are the ones that have left behind their regular successes in the Under 12s, and constantly have to take on older and heavier wrestlers. The lightweight Championship is a reward for persistence throughout the season. John Gibson was the one to take full advantage. He began shakily against Aaron Younger who rushed him for the first fall of the championship, but after that he got his hips into action and it was involved in every fall thereafter. In the final with William Hindmarsh he had to be on the tips of his toes to bring him over for a well-earned title.

Jack Brown was the single most successful wrestler with four wins, but he was short of opposition. At Stanhope he and Craig Ridley were pitted together in three finals, and Brown won them all, but we saw some of the old Ridley magic with single falls which lit up the day: particularly a hank and an outside stroke of high quality.

At Whitfield Jack Brown looked like winning all the men's events, but Thomas Gibson, John's big brother, had other ideas and hiped Brown with a swirl and a finishing twist and then countered a back-heel with another hipe.

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#### Stanhope Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	
Under 15 Years	T Hodgson	J Gibson	M Stainton
Under 18 Years	J Gibson	T Hodgson	J Smith
Under 21 Years	T Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	J Smith
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard,	R Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
Ladies All Weights Championship	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	L Elliott
12 Stones	J Brown	C Ridley	
14 Stones	J Brown	C Ridley	
All Weights	J Brown	C Ridley	Trevor Hodgson

#### Whitfield Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 11 Years	R Hodgson	A Younger	M Stainton
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	A Younger
Under 15 Years and 8st Championship	J Gibson	W Hindmarsh	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	R Bulloch	T Hodgson	M Bates
Ladies	Tracy Hodgson	H Hodgson	A Hindmarsh
12 Stones	J Brown	R Bulloch	Ted Hodgson
All Weights	T Gibson	J Brown	R Bulloch

**September 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**GRAHAM BROCKLEDBANK TAKES THE 15 STONE TITLE.**

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday September 23rd - Langholm Show CANCELLED

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Saturday September 30th - 3pm - Upper Redesdale Show - U10yrs / U13yrs / U16 yrs / Girls U16yrs / 13St / Ladies / AW

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Saturday September 30th - Eskdale Show

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2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



For Graham Brocklebank of Warton, last week was a bruised and battered affair, but when the dust, or mud, settled, he must have had a satisfied smile on his face.

There were two main challenges: his local Westmorland Show with its big ring, big money, big entry and massive crowd, including Prince



Charles; and then two days later a much more intensive event, the 15st Championship at Egremont Crab Fair, wrestling stripped to its essentials.



At the Westmorland Show he won two events, the 13 stones and 14 stones, and still did not receive the best wrestling award, which went to Jack Brown who was pulling off great throws throughout the wrestling programme. The two met in the 13 stones final, and it was typical of their closely fought encounters. First, Brocklebank took a strong hold and back-heeled Browns long legs. Then, Brown hit back with an unexpected buttock to level the score. The decider went Brocklebank's way when he gained a strong hold and twisted to win.



The two of them met in the first round of the Championship at Egremont and a galvanised bout ensued. The first was a typical grab for hold and a twist, but the second bout was special when Brocklebank twice dived intensively round his man for hold before twisting down. In the semi-final he met his old rival Richard Fox and another sudden buzzing round for hold and a hi-pe. The final saw him matched with local wrestler, Dylan Fleming of Bootle, who gave Brocklebank pause for thought before a buttock off Fleming's back-heel attempt settled the matter, and Graham Brocklebank was once more a worthy 15st Champion.

At Kendal Thomas Davidson again confirmed a year of improvement, and gained the best boy wrestler award. He was hiping and hanking with the best, and fully deserved being awarded the Under 15 Years trophy from Prince Charles. George Wilson gained a wonderful double when he won both the Under 18 Years and the Men's All Weights.

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#### Westmorland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Wilson	J Charnley	R Hodgson
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	R Armstrong	R Bulloch
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	K Cordukes
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	C Whitfield	P Denny
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	H Hodgson
11 Stones and Under 21 Years	S Wilson	M Kirkham	T Hayhurst
12 Stones	J Brown	A Carlile	J Harrington
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	J Brown	B Brocklebank
14 Stones	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	J Brown
All Weights	G Wilson	S Wilkinson	T Brocklebank

#### Egremont Crab Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	A Spedding	T Clark	H Naylor
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	H Wilson	M Hodgson	J Gibson
Ladies	G Coulthard	L Wilson	S Price
11½ Stones	J Harrington	M Kirkham	H Wilson
13 Stones	J Brown	M Kirkham	J Harrington
15 Stones Championship	G Brocklebank	D Fleming	R Fox
All Weights	R Fox	J Brown	J Harrington

#### Thropton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Mackay	J Edmundson	L Mason
Under 13 Years	W Hindmarsh	M Bates	W Ayliffe
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	O Mason	W Ayliffe
Under 18 Years	F Cansfield	T Davidson	O Mason

Event	First	Second	Third
Girls Under 15 Years	A Hindmarsh	H Dennis	A Davidson
13 Stones	C Carlyle	T Davidson	F Cansfield
All Weights	C Carlyle	F Cansfield	C Barrass
Ladies Open	A Hindmarsh	A Bates	H Dennis

**September 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE END OF THE OUTDOOR WRESTLING SEASON.**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Saturday September 30th - 3pm - Upper Redesdale Show - U10yrs / U13yrs / U16 yrs / Girls U16yrs / 13St / Ladies / AW**

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**Saturday September 30th - Eskdale Show - 3pm -U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 10½st / 12st / AW**

**Monday October 9th - 7.45 Carlisle Wrestling Club - AGM in the lounge at Currock House.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



The Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling season comes to a sudden end after a huge glut of events at the end of August and the first week September. The wrestling programme reverts to one or two venues each week-end, gaps appear and suddenly it is Wasdale Head Show and Alwinton Show once more simultaneously rounding off the season in mid-October. When the likes of Langholm Show succumbs to the weather, wrestlers find themselves going a fortnight without action.

All that remains of the season are two sets of paired events a hundred miles apart in Northumberland and the west of Cumbria. Tomorrow, 30th September, two sheep shows in remote areas sustain the competition. Eskdale one of the western valleys of the Lake District and Upper Redesdale Show at the small village of Rochester on the road to the Carter bar in Northumberland.

I have fond memories of Rochester Show for it was there, sixty-five years ago that I won my first wrestling event, the Under 11 Years. With my one pound prize-money I bought a sheep from my uncle and started another life-time interest. As a boy I remember the immaculately turned-out Ian Potts wrestling in a championship event there and comparing him to the shambling power of Donald Dayson who trained by lifting a tractor axle. In the fifties Rochester had its own wrestling academy and I remember a famous event when the three Northumbrian Academies, Rochester, Wooler and Thropton, held a three-way match at Kirk-Yetholm, over the Scottish Border. The return of Redesdale Show to the wrestling calendar is welcome indeed.

Another sign of the end of season is that Carlisle Wrestling Club holds its AGM on Monday, 9th October. Suddenly, the focus is going to switch from the grass and mud of the 2017 season to the safe wrestling mats at Currock House in Carlisle, and the other academies at Kendal, Milnthorpe, and Waberthwaite. Rothbury Academy keeps going throughout the year so there is no change for them.

**Tickets for the CWWA Annual Presentation Dinner are now available for Friday, November 10th at Low Hesket; and the season's points are being tallied for the Victor Ludorum trophies.**



Add also the invitation of the Breton Wrestling Federation to their backhold championships:



# Fédération de Gouren

Bodadeg ar Gouren

10, rue Saint Ernel

29800 LANDERNEAU

02 98 85 40 48

federation@gouren.bzh

www.gouren.bzh

## CATEGORIES INTERNATIONAUX DE BACK-HOLD 2018

"The 16th edition of the Back-Hold Britain International will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 in Guingamp.

See here: <https://goo.gl/maps/ZYkDfqVdbvL2> .

We are now launching the invitations, we will be happy to welcome your team from Friday 16 February to Sunday 18. To better prepare the organization, including accommodation, we would like to know if you are interested in attending, and if so, with about how many people. Please try to reply before October 1st."

The cycle goes on.

**October 5<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### UPPER REDESDALE AND ESKDALE SHOWS

#### NEWS UPDATES

**Monday October 9th - 7.45 Carlisle Wrestling Club - AGM in the lounge at Currock House.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday October 14th - 12.30 - Alwinton Show - U10yrs / U13yrs / U16yrs / Girls U16yrs / U21yrs / 11½st / 14st / Ladies / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday October 14th - 4pm - Wasdale Head Show - U11yrs / U12yrs / U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 10½st / 12st / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



At the Roman Wall Show wrestling spectators can watch the walkers climbing nearby steep sections of Hadrian's Wall. At Upper Redesdale Show they have gone one better with all the car parking, industrial and catering tents, sheep pens and wrestling ring neatly fitting inside the well preserved outer circuit wall of Bremenium Roman fort, looking to the Scottish Border over a modern Gunnery Range.

"I don't want to get my feet wet," said Emily Davidson, but she did, for the rain had blasted down right to the start of the wrestling when suddenly all was bathed in sun.



Some local youngsters took part but mainly the event was a showcase for Rothbury Wrestling Academy which supplied a competitive group for each category. The only interloper was Jack Brown who began his wrestling development at Carlisle Wrestling Club despite living in Northumberland. Not for the first time this year he won more than one category. He is after all the All Weights Champion even though he weighs in under 12 stones. Sporting a new hair style ("I fell asleep on holiday"), he felled the up and coming Cade Whitfield in the 13st and All Weights finals. The form book was very much on his side, but he nevertheless had a difficult time in the All Weights. Young Zak Singleton took the first fall



with a left leg inside-hip before Brown started to put the pressure on with hold and twists to win the next two falls. In the final, Cade Whitfield also took the lead with a left-leg back-heel after a busy encounter, but for the next hold my notes simply say "JB i hipe splat" and the third came from a timely nudge with the knee. All the winners from Aaron Younger onwards had to be at their best to win the day. Aaron and William Hindmarsh hiped, and Robbie Bulloch used two left leg back-heels. The female wrestling was competitive throughout with Anna Hindmarsh, Emily Davidson and Alice Bates on good form despite the mud.

Down West Cumbria Eskdale Show proved to be a good day for Harry Wilson in the boys' events, and for Paul Murray in the seniors. Murray is widely successful in showing his "Inside Hype" flock of Jacob Sheep, and put in the hours in the car and on the mats for wrestling training as a boy at Carlisle. He is an occasional competitor these days. He did well to win at 12 stones and wrestle up to A Mason in the All Weights final.

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#### Upper Redesdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger	O Morrison	T Morrison
Under 13 Years	W Hindmarsh	J Wilkes	T Morrison
Under 16 Years	R Bulloch	B Snowdon	J Wilkes
Girls Under 16 Years	A Hindmarsh	R McKay	H Dennis
13 Stones	J Brown	C Whitfield	F Cansfield
Ladies	E Davidson	A Bates	A Hindmarsh
All Weights	J Brown	C Whitfield	Z Singleton

## Eskdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	A Spedding	M Stainton
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	R Hodgson	M Holroyd
Under 18 Years	H Wilson,	R Hodgson	T Benson
10½ Stones	F Wilson	T Benson	M Holroyd
12 Stones	P Murray	H Wilson	A Spedding
All Weights	A Mason	P Murray	T Benson

**October 12<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE CWWA WRESTLING SEASON ENDS THIS WEEK AT ALWINTON SHOW**

### NEWS UPDATES

**Saturday October 14th - 12.30 - Alwinton Show - U10yrs / U13yrs / U16yrs / Girls U16yrs / U21yrs / 11½st / 14st / Ladies / AW**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday October 14th - Wasdale Head Show - CANCELLED**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday October 18th - 7.45 Carlisle Wrestling Club in the Currock House Gym**

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**Friday November 10th - Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Presentation Dinner**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line

I had written a lyrical first paragraph about the wrestling season ending with “two ancient and classic venues more than a hundred miles apart: Wasdale Head Show with its Herdwick sheep close by Scafell Pike; and Alwinton Border Shepherds Show with its Hexham Blackfaced sheep in the Cheviot Hills.” Scrub that... a ton of rain fell on Wasdale this week and it has been cancelled, so if you want a fix of hills, hound trails, fell-racing and wrestling, head for Alwinton.



Continuity is a significant feature of the club's success, and two of the active wrestlers who founded the club in 1970 were still there contributing to the discussion. Tom Harrington MBE and myself were at our best in the early seventies so the club was driven forward by example rather than exhortation.

That spirit is still there in the form of Andrew Carlile, from an old wrestling family, the present holder of the 11 stones Championship, a dynamic secretary of the club and one of the main coaches on the Currock House mats.



His coaching skills are clearly shown by the list of current champions, for he was involved with training the Gibson brothers, Thomas and John, who won at under 18 and under 15/8st. Mark Wharton went one better by ending the season with a double, the Under 18 Years/10st title and the men's 10½ stones. Even better was Jack Brown's haul for the season for he won the championships at 13st, 14st and at All Weights. He used to travel regularly from Haydon Bridge to the Carlisle club to have his skills honed by three great champions, Tom Harrington, Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile.

Carlisle Wrestling Club opens its indoor season next Wednesday, 18th October. Throughout the winter there will be competitions each month for Juniors and a separate night for the Men's Points. New members, of course are always welcome, and all those people who made enquiries at the ring-side during the season are invited to attend. These days, each young wrestler who competes on the grass has to have a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian, and it was noted at the meeting that the email addresses given on those slips could be used as reminder that [our five wrestling academies](#) are in winter action and keen to find new blood.

## October 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

THE CWWA WRESTLING SEASON ENDS WITH A FLOURISH.

### NEWS UPDATES

Friday November 10th - Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Presentation Dinner

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## 2017 Wrestling Venues now on Line



The Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling season finished with a flourish at Alwinton Show. The best wrestlers travelled big distances to compete, but the heart-beat of the this last event of the season was provided by Rothbury wrestling Club with its host of well coached wrestlers,

young and older, male and female. Coaches Jason Davidson and Darren Whitfield should be proud of their achievements.

In the big Alwinton ring, Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge brought his wonderful season to a climactic conclusion when he won three events in a row: a Young Farmers Club category, then the 11½ and 14 Stones. In the YFC final he had to overcome someone even taller and certainly heavier than him. Zak Singleton took the middle fall of the final with an inside hipec but Brown took the decider.

In the 11½st finals he had to be at his best to subdue John Harrington who was on good form all day. Mainly he was able to win with hipes of various types, using his long arms and legs to manoeuvre a winning position. In the 14st semi-final Jack Brown was on the receiving end of one of the best falls of the day when he was launched skyward by a buttock from Richard Fox. Once more, though, his hipec won the decider.

The furthest travelled wrestlers were the Brocklebank brothers who live in Warton, Lancashire. In the 14 stones Graham Brocklebank never got going and fizzled out early. But it was a different matter in the All Weights, when he and big brother Thomas were on their best form against determined opposition. In the final between the two brothers, Graham attacked with gusto and sent Thomas reeling, but once more he gathered himself and put in the final twists.

The Hindmarsh family live in the middle of nowhere at Rowhope farm high in the Cheviots, but they follow wrestling wherever it is held, West Cumbria, Lancashire and Durham. For them Alwinton Show is home territory where they would especially like to shine. William wrestled skilfully to take third in a strong Under 13s competition, but it was sister Anna's achievements which gave her the best day of her season.

She was awarded the prize for the best performance in all the youth wrestling after she had felled Gemma Coulthard in the final of the Under 16 Girls. Her defensive wrestling turned to attack in the first fall when she cross-buttocked to win, and then Gemma's own crossbuttock was spoilt by a wayward knee. Then in the Open Ladies Anna went even better when she finally cross-buttocked Emily Davidson to win a highly competitive event and seal the double.

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**Alwinton Show**

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	C Singer	R, Mackay	J Leeson
Under 13 Years	M Hodgson	M Bates	W Hindmarsh
Under U16 Years	G Singer	M Hodgson	R Bulloch
Girls Under 16 Years	A Hindmarsh	G Coulthard	H Dennis
Under 21 Years	Z Singleton	Joe Hale	M Lamont
YFC	J Brown	Z Singleton	F Cansfield
11½ Stones	J Brown	J Harrington	A Carlile
14 Stones	J Brown	J Harrington	R Fox
Ladies Open	A Hindmarsh	E Davidson	G Coulthard
AllWeights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	Z Singleton.

**October 26<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE CWWA IS HOSTING THE EUROPEAN ESPOIRS CHAMPIONSHIP IN APRIL 2018**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Friday November 10th - Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Presentation Dinner**

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The Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association has been a member of the European Federation of Celtic Wrestling since 1985 and has always tried to play a full role in the international scene despite being a much smaller organisation with fewer wrestlers and poorer finances than many of the other countries. We have been represented by wrestlers on every occasion even when unable to field a full team, and we have been host on four occasions previously. Next year, in April, we host one of the major international events, the European Espoirs Championship.

The wrestlers have all to be from 16 years old to 20 years. The men's team numbers seven over a range of weights, and the women have five in a team. On April 7th and 8th next year two days of competition test the wrestlers in two styles of wrestling: Gouren, a jacket style of combat from Brittany; and our own style which is usually referred to as Backhold Wrestling. There are team trophies and individual awards.



At present eight countries have indicated that they are bringing wrestlers: Brittany, Hungary, Iceland, Leon in Spain, Sardinia, Scotland, the USA, and our own home grown team. The Austrians may also participate.

Such an event needs a lot of organisation. The competitors need to be accommodated in a suitable environment which is comparatively affordable, and the organising committee have arranged to host the wrestlers in the student accommodation at Newton Rigg, Penrith. The College did not have a big enough hall to hold two international wrestling mats, so the actual bouts will be in the Sports Hall at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith. Suitable mats for an international were hard to find, until our Scottish friends offered theirs.

There are plans to have a training programme circulating round our wrestling academies this winter before the team is chosen. Three coaches, Andrew Carlile, Jason Davidson and Alan Jones, are heavily involved both in the wrestling training and in the raising of funds.

The event needs about £20,000 to go ahead, a figure way beyond the normal finances of the CWWA. However, the committee has already gained support to the tune of £16,000. Substantial funding has been promised by Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council, South Lakes Council, Cumbria Community Foundation and the Lake District National Park. An event held near Rothbury, the Simonside Country Fair, is providing a thousand pounds. The two main sponsors of the actual event are Cartmel Shepherd and the Northumberland County Show and there are numerous other supporters to swell the coffers.

## November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

### THE CWWA ACADEMIES

#### NEWS UPDATES

**Wednesday November 8th - 7.45 - Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points at Currock House Gym.**

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**Friday November 10th - 7.30 - Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Presentation Dinner**

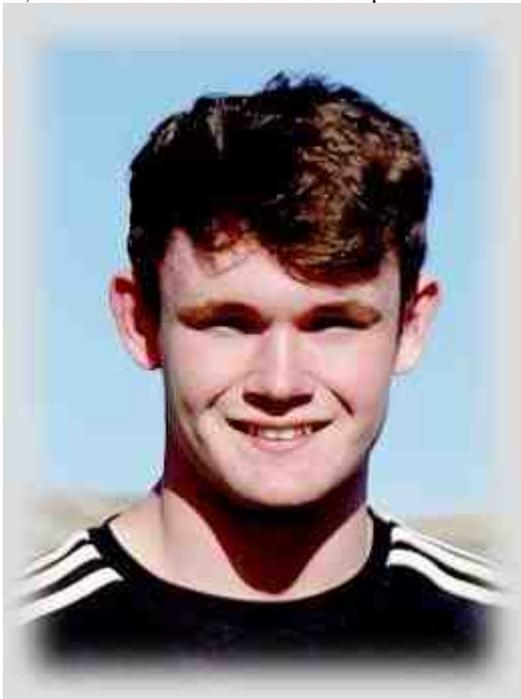
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Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling is a summer sport gracing the grass rings of the North of England and the Scottish Borders. In winter it moves indoors for a more hidden programme of training, youth development, and internal competitions on the wrestling mats. A few more widespread events like next week's CWWA Presentation Dinner, the slide show of the 2017 season in December, and the Academy Shield competition, which will be held at Rothbury at end of February or beginning of March, remind us of our sense of community and shared experience.

At present there are only four academies in action because the Milnthorpe organiser and coach, David Parsons has delayed the start of his club till after Christmas whilst he has remedial surgery on a hip operation. He had sad news, too, of the death of Bernard Coward of Lindale at the age of 67. He was Under 15 Years Champion in 1963 and was winning at Grasmere round that era.



The Rothbury Academy in Northumberland never closes, except for school holidays, for they are closely linked to the local school. Every Wednesday night they are on the mats at The Dr Thomlinson School at 6.30 for youngsters under 10 years of age, before progressing on to the older lads, lasses and men from 7.30 to 9pm. The main coaches are the old firm of Darren Whitfield and Jason Davidson, champions both in their time, but new blood in the form of keen parents such as Graham Bates and Neil Hindmarsh are starting to help. CWWA President



Jimmy Pringle particularly commends the way Jason Davidson keeps the sessions moving for the full two hours. Up to thirty youngsters fill the mats for the first hour, and Jimmy commented on the way the tiny wrestlers look up to their tall coach.

A hundred miles away in West Cumbria a completely different academy is run each Monday from 6.30 to 9pm in the Village Hall at Waberthwaite. The difference lies in the youthfulness of the coaches and organisers. For years Tom Porter revived and sustained wrestling in the area, but he has now stepped back and attends only to watch his grandchildren perform.



The main coaches are Michael Kirkham, Tom Johnson and Dylan Fleming who are all active young wrestlers. Tom Porter particularly noted the rapport existing between light-weight star, Michael Kirkham, and the youngsters on the mats. 26 youngsters took part in a recent training session.

The longest running academy, Kendal, continues to meet each Friday at 7.30 in Burnieside Cricket Club Pavilion. The lynch-pins are John Wilson on the mats and Nora Hayhurst at a table keeping things orderly. Extra help for coaching is provided by Hodgson sisters, Hannah and Connie. Each week has a points competition element: weights one week; ages the next.

Meanwhile, Carlisle Wrestling Club is meeting each Wednesday night with the first session for youngsters starting at 7.45. The club serves a huge rural area from the borders of Northumberland, Scotland and West Cumbria. Even though its base at Currock House Gym is well within the city boundaries, hardly any Carlisle youngsters participate. Instead, young wrestlers travel from farms and villages over a wide constituency. A big welcome and expert tuition from three multi-champion coaches, Tom Harrington, Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile, from three generations await anyone interested in trying the sport.

In this coming week the first Junior Points competitions are held, and Andrew Carlile has issued an invitation: "Is anyone interested in a trip to Glasgow on the 26/11/17 for the Scottish Indoor Open? Lots of age/weight classes. If there is enough interest we can hire a mini bus."

## November 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

### THE 2017 CWWA PRESENTATION DINNER

#### NEWS UPDATES

**November 15th - 8.45pm Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points at Currock House.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday November 10th was the Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner to honour the most successful wrestlers of 2017, and to have a good crack.

The Dinner was first instituted in the early seventies, more than forty years ago. The previous decade had been almost a blank for any interaction between wrestlers from different areas. Only a single Wrestling Academy, Kendal, extended the wrestling season indoors in winter or even existed. There was no camaraderie arising from international journeys to compete in Europe and no Academy Shield. I think the wrestling world became shocked by the big downturn in wrestling after the cheerful frenzy of the Academy Leagues in the post-War years.

Revived academies at Carlisle, St Michael's on Wyre, and Rothbury changed the landscape and inter-club events helped to establish greater contact. The Governing Board played their part, too, by finding the Academy Shield in the Secretary's attic and putting it to work with a completely new set of rules which made the competition sustainable. In addition the Governing Board came up with the idea of a season-long competition where wrestlers would gain points from their weekly endeavours and be awarded with a trophy at a suitable gathering after the season was complete. The Annual Dinner and Victor Ludorum trophies were established, and forty years later they continue to bring together the wrestling world to applaud the achievement of the winners.

A new aspect introduced last year will also feature centrally. Our Championships are allocated on a fairly random basis so big distances and many weeks can separate the gaining of trophies. The Presentation Dinner asks each champion to bring his or her trophies to be re-awarded centrally to the acclaim of the wrestling community.



In looking through my old records I came across a photograph of three wrestlers holding their trophies. I think it dates from 1977 which was a remarkable year for George Brocklebank in the centre of the photo. He won both the Under 15 and Under 18 Victor Ludorum plaques, but also at the age of fourteen years won the All Weights at Grasmere Sports, felling his Uncle Wilf and his own father, John, in the later stages of the competition. Sadly, he was lost to wrestling when the Amateur Athletic Association insisted that he break all contact with our nasty professional sport to enable him to further his shot-putting ambitions.

Meanwhile, at Carlisle Wrestling Club this week Matty Hodgson shone in the Junior Points Competition for November and came away with the best performance trophy. His best moment was when he neatly inside-clicked his great rival John Gibson twice in the 10st group.

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**Carlisle Wrestling Club Juniors Junior Points - November**

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stones	M Story	T Coulthard	C Armstrong	A Coulthard
7 Stones	Jack Gibson	T Coulthard	A Coulthard	B Stewart
8½ Stones	John Gibson	M Hodgson	J Wharton	M Story
10 Stones	M Hodgson	John Gibson	Jack Gibson	C Wharton
Under 12 Years	J Wharton	C Armstrong	Jack Gibson	M Story
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	C Wharton	M Hodgson	John Gibson
Under 18 Years	M Wharton	John Gibson	R Armstrong	M Hodgson
Best Performance	Matty Hodgson			

**November 16<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE 2017 VICTOR LUDORUM AWARDS**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday November 26th - Scottish Indoor Championships at Barmulloch Sports Centre, Glasgow**

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From May until October the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season unfolds week by week at events in the Northern Counties of England and the Borders of Scotland. Each venue is autonomous, but as the season progresses a count is kept of all the results in the different categories and added up at the end of the season to see who were the most successful and keenest wrestlers. At the CWWA Presentation Dinner Victor Ludorum trophies are presented.

### Trophy WINNERS

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	<a href="#"><u>Rosie Hodgson (86 Points)</u></a>	T. Wilson (27 Points)	Aaron Younger (25 Points)
Under 15 Years	<a href="#"><u>Ryan Armstrong (45 Points)</u></a>	Thomas Davidson (31 Points)	= Matty Hodgson and Robbie Bullock (23 Points)
Under 18 Years	<a href="#"><u>George Wilson (38 Points)</u></a>	Zak Singleton (34 Points)	Robbie Bullock (25 Points)
Ladies Under 17 Years	Gemma Coulthard (41 Points)	= Anna Hindmarsh and Rosie Hodgson (30 Points)	
Ladies All Weights	<a href="#"><u>Connie Hodgson (60 Points)</u></a>	Gemma Coulthard (41 Points)	Anna Hindmarsh (34 Points)
Lightweight	John Harrington (27 Points)	Andrew Carlile (14 Points)	Jack Brown (12 Points)
Middleweight	Jack Brown (48 Points)	John Harrington (36 Points)	Graham Brocklebank (24 Points)
Heavyweight	<a href="#"><u>Jack Brown (70 Points)</u></a>	Graham Brocklebank (43 Points)	Thomas Brocklebank (33 Points)

The Under 12s is a mixed category and this year a girl was top of the pile. Rosie Hodgson of Dent has been following wrestling fortunes of her far-travelled family for nearly ten years, but this year she was winning wherever she went. Often it was hard work against the better lads, but she always kept going till the final bout.

Three wrestlers were virtually interchangeable in the Under 15s, and I remember at the likes of Alston Gala how the bouts between Robbie Bullock and Ryan Armstrong of Low Hesket went one way and the other. Ryan has improved his range of skills this year and hipes and outside strokes with the best.

George Wilson of Selside has been a good wrestler and a big lad for many years. Now that Zak Singleton and Thomas Gibson are on the scene he has been challenged as never before, and generally risen to the challenge. At the Westmorland Show he won the Under 18s, and also Men's All Weights, showing a new level of achievement.

Gemma Coulthard of Rosley has always been strong, but her wrestling nous has been developing, too, over the years. She should be proud of staying ahead of Anna Hindmarsh in the lists for she is another girl who improves every week

Connie Hodgson of Dent can fell everyone she meets in the ring except for an occasional lapse against a Breton. Her total of sixty points means that she won twenty events. She used to disguise her skills behind her weight, but now, stripped to ten stones she wins by pure wrestling instinct.



John Harrington of Bewaldeth has had a quiet year for championships, but throughout the season his silky skills shine through. His outside-hippe oftenagainst taller wrestlers is one of my favourite moves, as he almost buries himself under his opponent before bringing him up with his body and sidewayswith his leg

Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge was just off the pace at the beginning of the season at the likes of the Northumberland Show, but, a month later at the Cumberland Show he turned the wrestling world on its head with a stunning win in the All Weights Championship. He was up and running in a wonderful year of wrestling achievement: three championships, two Victor Ludorum trophies. And his father seemed pleased, too. We need good wrestlers, but we also rely implicitly on good organisers.

One of the best, Doreen Bragg, died earlier this week. Our thoughts are with Cyril and his family.

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

## THE EUROPEAN ESPOIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

### NEWS UPDATES

**Sunday November 26th - Scottish Indoor Championships at Barmulloch Sports Centre, Glasgow**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday December 1st 7.30 - Espoirs training session at Currock House, Carlisle. All welcome.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday December 3rd 7.30 - Slide Show of the 2017 Season in the lounge at Currock House.**

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The European Espoirs Championships of the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling are due to take place in Penrith on April 6th to 9th next year.

A month ago the fundraising was going well, but still short by three thousand pounds, and the first special training session had been arranged. Since then the target figure to fund the hosting of the Championships has reached its target and beyond. More than twenty thousand pounds in the kitty means that we can start focusing on what matters rather than dithering about whether we could afford the project.

Last Friday was the first training session at Rothbury. Of course, the Rothbury lads were there in numbers, but there were also wrestlers from Carlisle and Waberthwaite. Even if no more wrestlers join the training sessions we already have enough to field a full team of seven wrestlers ranging from 57kg to the super-heavy at 90+kg.

The truth is, though, that we want more wrestlers to compete for places from all corners of our regional wrestling world. The next training session is to be held at Currock House, Carlisle at 7.30pm on Friday, 1st December. And the one after that will be at Kendal Academy.

The selection system for the team is keen to focus on the best wrestlers in training in two styles next March, rather than those who had done well in our own style in the Summer; or whether they belong to a particular academy. An academy has the right to appoint a selector, but they are required to attend 80 per cent of the training sessions so that they are suitably informed.



Two wrestlers well respected for their prowess and skill in both the Gouren and the Backhold Wrestling, Andrew Carlile and Alan Jones, are the primary coaches with Jason Davidson contributing, too.

One of the main problems for young wrestlers is age. Laura Elliott, training keenly at Carlisle, is a few days too old, and the likes of Mark Wharton is a shade too young. The Espoirs Championships are for wrestlers aged 16 to 20 years. The men have seven categories: 57, 62, 68, 74, 81, 90 and 90+kgs, and the females compete at 47, 53, 60, 70 and 70+kgs. In general these are light weights for our competitors.

The case of Mark Wharton is particularly apposite as he did so well in the Men's Points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club recently. At Gosforth Show in August he broke new ground by winning a Senior Championship at 10½ stones. On the mats at Currock house he sealed his new status by felling David Miller and Andrew Carlile in the Points Night competitions. He is ready for senior competition, but unable to compete at Espoirs level till next year.

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**Carlisle Wrestling Club - Men's November Points Night**

Event	First	Second	Third
11 Stone	M Wharton	D Miller	
12 Stone	M Wharton	D Miller	A Carlile
13 Stone	A Carlile	D Miller	M Wharton
All Weights	J Ewart	D Miller	A Carlile

**November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**THE CWWA AT THE SCOTTISH OPEN INDOOR BACKHOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GLASGOW**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday December 3rd at 0900 - Gouren training at Currock House, Carlisle (Please note change of time and day).**

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**Sunday December 3rd 7.30 - Slide Show of the 2017 Season in the lounge at Currock House.**

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Some of our wrestlers had a complete change of scene last week when six Carlisle wrestlers travelled up to



Glasgow to compete in the Scottish Open Indoor Backhold Championships at Barmulloch Community Centre. Every single wrestler came away with trophies and enhanced reputations.

Best of all was Andrew Carlile, our present 11st Champion, who is coach for all the other wrestlers, and organised the minibus, too. He stopped short at driving it; that job went to Matty's Mum, Sharon Carlile was wrestling in weights significantly high for him (12½ and 14½ stones). The format of the event is that wrestlers can compete in two categories. They are allocated to two pools where they wrestle best-of-five. After that first round the best wrestlers compete in cross-ties as semi-finals and then the final. The situation played into Carlile's hands perfectly for he was initially unable to cope with the hiping skills of Max Freyn who hales from Edinburgh, is at university at Aberdeen and learns his wrestling with Frazer Hirsch at Carnoustie.

After the initial blitz had left Carlile floundering, he gathered himself for the final and won every fall. In the 14½ stones the biggest problem was Paul Craig of Wemyss Bay, who was a finalist in the Grasmere 14 stones this year. Once more Carlile's guile won the day, and he was awarded the trophy for the Best Wrestler of the Day.

As a heavy weight, Thomas Gibson rarely competes in two events, but he was able to win the Under 21 Years All Weights before going on to compete in the Senior Open. There, his chief opposition was Frazer Hirsch who does so much for Scottish wrestling, while continuing to compete and even venture into Mixed Martial Arts. There were nine bouts between the two of them before Thomas Gibson won the day.

Our only female wrestler, Laura Elliott, had her hardest day of wrestling ever. It began easily with a walk-over in the Under 21 years 11½ stones, but after that it was hard graft. In the Women's 11½ stones, three athletes were tied with each other throughout. At one point some clever coaching from Tom Harrington and Alan Jones picked her up and gave her success.

As in our area there are more young wrestlers than seniors, so Matty Hodgson, John Gibson and Vinnie Jones had plenty of action in the Under 14s. When the dust of the preliminary rounds had settled, Matty Hodgson and John Gibson contested the 7½st and 8½st finals. First blood went to Hodgson who won the 7½st in straight falls, mainly rushes off the buttock. In the 8½ stones final Gibson wrestled with extra vim and variation to win the final in straight falls. For his efforts he was awarded the special trophy as best wrestler in the Under 14 Years section.

Vinnie Davidson reached the final of the 10½ stones and competed brilliantly against a heavier and older lad, but had to withdraw with a sore neck.

As a result of the long day of wrestling, the minibus was "fair rattling" with trophies as it headed down the M74 in the darkness.

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**CWWA Awards at The Scottish Open Indoor Backhold Championships**

Competitor				
John Gibson	7 Stone - 2nd	8½ Stone -1st	Best Under 14 Yrs Wrestler	
Matty Hodgson	7½ Stone - 1st	8½ Stone - 2nd		
Vinnie Davidson	8½ Stone - 3rd	10½ Stone - 2nd.		
Thomas Gibson	U21 - AW - 1st	Men's - AW - 1st		
Laura Elliott	U21 - 11½st - 1st	U21 - AW - 2nd	Women's 11½ Stone - 2nd	Women's AW - 3rd.
Andrew Carlile	12½ Stone -1st	14½ Stone - 1st	Best Senior Wrestler in the whole event.	

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**WOODCUTS AND DIGITAL IMAGES**

**NEWS UPDATES**

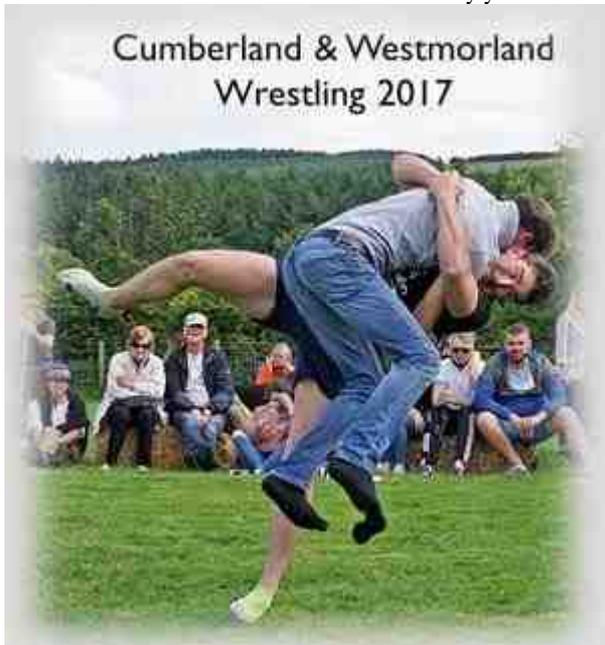
**Wednesday December 13th 9.00pm - Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night at Currock House, Carlisle.**

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For centuries our wrestling has featured in the local newspapers, so when anyone enquires about their great-great-great grandfather's exploits in Victorian times, I always refer them to the archives held by the County library system. In 2015, when the Cumberland News celebrated two hundred years of continuous reporting, I attended a function to mark the occasion, and there on a table was a large, leather-bound tome of the earliest issues of the newspaper. Hard copies in a humidity-controlled room keeps the past records intact.



Books, too, tabulate Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling. When I purchased a silver snuff box "wrestled for by the natives of Cumberland and Westmorland residing in London, April 20th, 1832", as the engraved lid informs, I knew that by looking in an 1870 book "Wrestliana" I knew I could fill in the recorded details for every year from 1824 onwards.



Images of wrestling are more challenging and sparse. Crude wood-cuts are the only record of what the wrestling looked like before the first photographs appeared in the 1870s. Even then they were obviously posed because the camera could not cope with movement.

Now, in the digital age, a much more natural record of wrestling action is available. Every year since 2004 the Wrestling Association has produced a CD/DVD with images of its events. This year's DVD is now available with photos taken at forty-five of our events. Copies are available from the Secretary of the CWWA for £10 including P&P. All profits go the Wrestling Association.

Meanwhile, in the real world of wrestling mats and action, Carlisle Wrestling Club's December Junior Points Competition was a lively affair. Three wrestlers, Toby Coulthard, Matty Hodgson and Ryan Armstrong had double wins, but when the judges came together to award the best performance trophy for the night it was another wrestler who was nominated. Jonathan Wharton, who came first in the Under 12 Years, was also involved in some of the best falls of the night, and for that he was awarded the trophy.

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**Carlisle Wrestling Club Juniors Junior Points - December**

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stones	T Coulthard	M Story	A Coulthard	C Armstrong
7 Stones	T Coulthard	C Armstrong	Jack Gibson	B Stewart
8½ Stones	M Hodgson	John Gibson	C Wharton	J Wharton
10 Stones	M Hodgson	V Davidson	John Gibson	M Story
Under 12 Years	J Wharton	V Davidson	G Harris	M Story
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	V Davidson	John Gibson	Jack Gibson
Under 18 Years	R Armstrong	John Gibson	M Hodgson	C Wharton
Best Performance	J Wharton			

**December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**DICKON TRUST FUND AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OFFERS SUPPORT FOR OUR EUROPEAN ESPOIRS**

**CHAMPIONSHIPS TRAINING.**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday, December 17th - 8.30am, Gouren Training in the Gym, Currock House, Carlisle.**

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The European Espoirs Championships of the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling are due to take place in Penrith on April 6th to 9th next year hosted by the Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association. Then costs of such a project are considerable and take up much of the energy and purpose of the organising group, but there are other hidden costs that are often forgotten about.

So, it was a welcome email message from Linda Scott, Chairman of the C&W Wrestling Association which arrived a day ago:

*"Just to let you know that the application to the Newcastle Building Society (by Alan & Shirley Jones) for Gouren Jackets, Crash mat, Coaching sessions was taken up by the Dickon Trust Fund at the Community Foundation. They are awarding Carlisle Wrestling Club £1,495.00 and this should be paid in to the account a week on Friday.*

*They have set up an online account for us which we need to keep updating with our progress. We need to take photos of coaching sessions, keep all receipts etc. Andrew, Alan & Jason (the coaches) are going to put together a list of the jackets we require and we need to set about ordering another crash mat."*

The three elements of this support from the Community Trust, Gouren jackets, crash mat and travelling, are all integral to the proper preparation of the team to take on the likes of the Bretons, Austrians and Spaniards next Spring.

The Gouren wrestling style from Brittany accounts for half the event. Whereas the defining features of our back-hold wrestling is the grip which must be retained throughout the bout, and the "first to hit the floor" rule for deciding the winner, the Gouren style relies on the ever changing grip of the wrestlers on the tough canvas jackets, and a much more technical points system for evaluating the result.



When we first tried Gouren, our wrestlers all tried to use techniques from our own style but found themselves bamboozled by the clever manipulation of the hold on the jacket for defence and attack. The special jackets cost around fifty Euros each, so a full set of jackets for the team and support wrestlers is an expensive matter.

A "safety mat for gymnastic landing activities" better known as a "crash mat" is an important training tool. Wrestlers must be confident of a safe landing during the experimentation and constant repetition of techniques.

Because of the distance between the academies travel support is welcome. Wrestlers from Rothbury, Waberthwaite, Kendal and Carlisle are taking part in the training sessions. The next one is held in the Gym at Currock House, Carlisle at 8.30 on Sunday, 17th December. All are welcome.

The mats at Currock House were well warmed up this week when the December Men's Points Night took place. First Andrew Carlile and then John Harrington dominated in the lighter weights, but the All Weights provided the main excitement when three big men joined the action. Enough energy to light up the area was generated, but David Barnes' hank was the chip that made the difference, especially when rescuing himself from a Thomas Gibson attack.

David Barnes' presence in the ring gives me a peculiar satisfaction, for I suppose he is only there because I taught his father, Michael, to wrestle in the lunchtime sessions when I taught at Trinity School in 1971-2.

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#### **Carlisle Wrestling Club Mens Points night - December**

<b>Event</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
<b>11 Stones</b>	<b>M Wharton</b>			
<b>12 Stones</b>	<b>A Carlile</b>	<b>J Harrington</b>	<b>M Wharton</b>	
<b>14 Stones</b>	<b>J Harrington</b>	<b>A Carlile</b>	<b>M Wharton</b>	
<b>All Weights</b>	<b>D Barnes</b>	<b>T Gibson</b>	<b>J Ewart</b>	<b>J Harrington</b>

**December 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday, January 14th - 8.30am, Gouren Training in the Gym, Currock House, Carlisle.**

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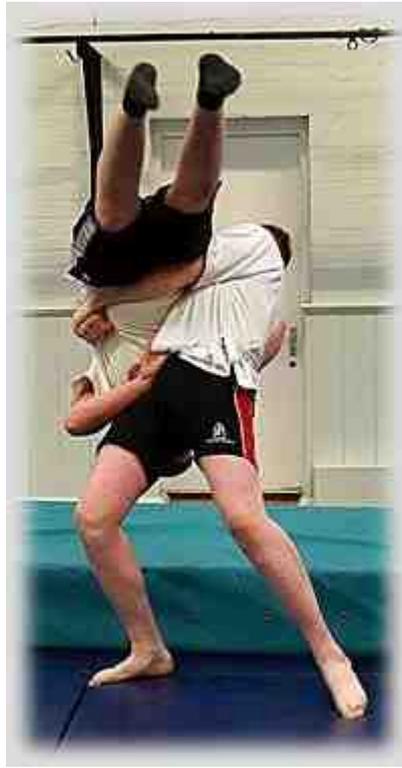
Another year, another Christmas card in a big envelope stuffed with newspaper cuttings: retired archivist, Jeremy Godwin has sent his annual package of newspaper cuttings from his extensive reading of local newspapers. The Westmorland Gazette, Whitehaven News and Hexham Courant and Cumberland and Westmorland Herald are not in my normal weekly reading, so his carefully dated cuttings give me a panoramic view of the way our local wrestling is covered throughout its area.

I learned two interesting facts for the first time, too. I knew that Lunesdale Show had been wiped out this year by bad weather, but did not realise that the problem was deeper. "Support us or lose us" was the headline. The show has taken place 177 times but is in jeopardy unless volunteers can be found to take the show forward.

Also in the Westmorland Gazette in the summer was a short article headed "Sports seek new manager". George Gale who has been Sports Manager at Grasmere for the past nine years is to step down after the 2018 event.

The common factor in much of the wrestling coverage in other areas is that there are quite a few photographs of the wrestling and factual covering such as results and mention of the wrestling as a feature of a particular event, but without mention of a single hipe or hank. The Hexham Courant has good photographs of the Northumbrian Champions Jack Brown and Joe Hale, as is appropriate, and the Westmorland Gazette even has a good action photo of an important Grasmere bout on its front page, but the coverage is limited.

Usually Jeremy's cuttings include quite a few historical flashbacks from the 100 years ago columns, but they are lacking this year. I did enjoy a piece that he picked out of the Penrith Herald for 1867 when "two bus-drivers outside Keswick Station were waiting for the train to arrive. To pass the time they held a wrestling bout together in which Tyson, driver of the Portinscale bus threw Silt, who fell heavily, breaking his leg. He went to Mr Dennison, 'Keswick's famous bonesetter', who set the leg." Tough times



Our wrestlers can always expect tough times when they take part in the international Gouren wrestling, so it is great that they have a fully organised set of training sessions in preparation for the Espoirs International Championships to be held in Penrith in early April. Before then our wrestlers will have taken part in fifteen training sessions alternating between the facilities at Rothbury Academy and Carlisle Wrestling Club, with the next session scheduled to take place at 8.30am on Sunday 14th of January at Currock House, Carlisle.

**December 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**WHAT'S CHANGED? WHAT STAYS THE SAME?**

**NEWS UPDATES**

**Sunday, January 14th - 8.30am, Gouren Training in the Gym, Currock House, Carlisle.**

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With this article I complete forty years of writing a weekly column on Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling. A warning article in December 1977 indicated that "Roger Joins 'News' Team", and that "A well-known member of the C&W wrestling fraternity, 35 year old Roger will be contributing an authoritative weekly column on wrestling topics and personalities."

So, what's changed? What stays the same?

Our wrestling is a centuries-old sport, well documented by newspapers and books since before the Battle of Waterloo, regulated by the same Governing body since 1906, and now part of a world of social media and Health and Safety regulation.

In 1978 there was no international wrestling. We had occasional forays into Cornwall or Scotland, but only in 1985 was the European Federation of Celtic Wrestling created for closer ties. Our wrestlers regularly compete in Brittany and Scotland, and the Bretons, Icelanders and Scots are familiar figures over here. International participation is the norm now.

Women could wrestle in 1978, but only because of an anomaly in the rules which were drawn up in 1906, an era when there was no thought of women taking part. Barbara Prudham, who trained at Carlisle alongside my son, Simon, was a formidable competitor, as were various Scottish women who entered our events. They caused a controversial ban on mixed competition, but ironically, stimulated the significant development of separate female competitions.

In 1978 anyone could coach wrestling, but now external pressures mean that we have to conform, along with all other sports, to ensure the safety of our sport. Coaches now have qualifications and First-Aid qualifications and police clearance. Parental permissions are the norm. Referees have vastly more duties to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators.



The technology has all changed since 1978. In those days I scribbled and spectacularly corrected my article in biro before handing it in at News desk on my way to school. Occasionally I would hear a touch-typist giggle when I dictate over the phone an account of a "leg-up buttock". First, Amstrad and e-mails changed the way I wrote and communicated.

Digital cameras made their appearance, but initially produced images built of bricks or Lego. Once the quality



improved a revolution took place and my wife and I and others would take hundreds of images of a wrestling event to end up with a couple of the best in the newspaper. The press photographers were the snipers; we took the scatter-gun approach.

In 1978 there were academies at Millom, St Michaels on Wyre, Kendal and Carlisle, but none in Northumberland, or Waberthwaite. Men were plentiful at Carlisle, but youngsters in short supply.

In all my forty years of reporting on wrestling the saddest task was when I wrote my own father's obituary in 1982. Apparently, some readers cried.

The strangest article occurred in 1980, when I was still competing. The Cumberland News covered Grasmere Sports which then was on a Thursday, and I found myself typing and submitting copy in the pavilion, between bouts in the ring. I won the 12 stones event that year and had to write about myself with the adrenaline still pumping.

More important than the changes, are the ways wrestling remains the same: a distinctive, action-filled traditional sport still thriving as an important part of our distinctive heritage in the North of England.

**Oh, and the scenery helps.**

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