

January 8th 2016

CURSTY AND PEGGY - A PASTORAL ROMANCE

NEWS UPDATE

TBA

In this time of floods and gales, follow me back nearly three hundred years to a warm hay field in Sebergham Parish, where two young lovers work and chat together, and *"the sun's owr Carrock fell"*. Why should Cursty and Peggy's Pastoral romance have any connection with sport and wrestling in particular?

When I compiled a book on Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling in 1999, I sought out early documentation: books, newspaper articles and images to trace the origins of the sport. The furthest I could go back in a continuous line was to William Litt's book *"Wrestliana"*, published in 1823, which had a section looking back to the second half of the Eighteenth Century. Adam Dodd of Longwathby Mill, who died in 1782, *"was universally admitted by old men at that period that no wrestler in their remembrance had ever equalled him in what is now termed science and action."*

There were earlier links to our wrestling such as the Cumberland teacher, Richard Mulcaster, who as headmaster of The Merchant Taylors' School in London, published an educational treatise in 1581 which advocated wrestling as part of the school curriculum. *"The vehement upright wrestling ...makes the breath firme and strong, the bodie sound and brawnie."* But nothing I found could fill that two century gap.

That gap narrowed when I picked up a book by Stephen Matthews, the owner of the Bookcase in Castle Street, Carlisle. *"Josiah Relph of Sebergham, England's First Dialect Poet."*



The edition of Relph's work published in 1798 was illustrated by *"picturesque engravings on wood"* by Thomas Bewick who, himself had wrestling connections. On a walking tour in 1776 he discovered his Penrith cousin *"had won nine belts"*. And there is an old print of wrestlers from his Newcastle workshop.

Apart from his university education in Glasgow, Josiah Relph lived out his short life (1712-1743) in the rural area of Sebergham, which lies near Caldbeck and Dalston. He was both Curate and Schoolmaster.... and a poet.

In a Pastoral poem he writes of the simple love relationship between a lad called Cursty and his sweetheart, Peggy. In alternate verses they review their relationship and conclude that they would rather work together in the hayfield than visit the bright lights. *"Let other lasses ride to Rosley-fair /And mazle up and down the market there."*

Cursty, though, does admire Peggy's dancing skills, and she, in turn applauds Cursty's prowess in the wrestling ring:

*"O how I swet, when, for the costly prize,
Thou grupp'd some lusty lad of greater size;
But when I saw him scrawlen on the plain,
My heart aw flacker'd for't, I was sae fain."*

(Hay-Time or The Constant Lovers)

The *"costly prize"* the gripping, and the sprawling at the end of the bout fits entirely into the world of C&W wrestling described by William Litt later in the same century.

In another poem, Relph slips into wrestling jargon to describe the season changing from Autumn to Winter:

*"Frae simmer autumn cleeks the hauld,
And back at yence is winter cauld"*

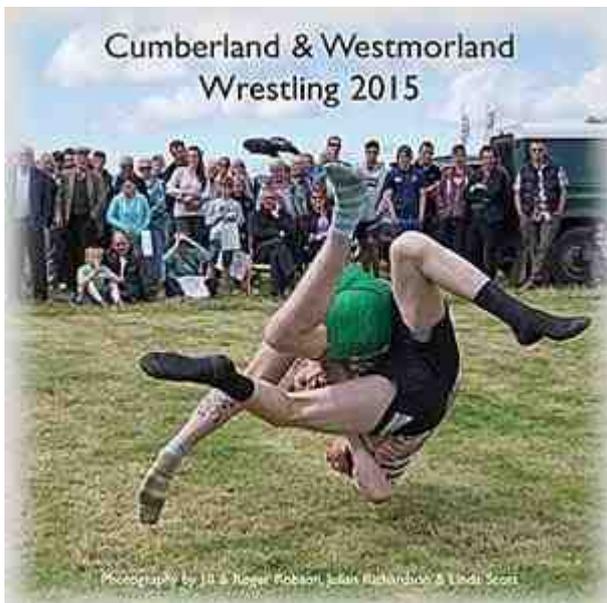
(Horace Book II. Ode VII in the Cumberland Dialect)

We still have inside-cleeks, and the *"hauld"* is still a key factor in wrestling success. In this gentle, dialect poetry the continuous heritage of our traditional style of wrestling is affirmed yet further into the past.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2015})

The CWWA CD of photographs taken at more than forty events in the 2015 Grass Season is now available.

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Cumberland & Westmorland Wrestling 2015

Cumberland & Westmorland Wrestling Champions 2015

U15yrs/8st Mark Wharton
 U15yrs Harry Bertram
 U18yrs/10st Alfie Story
 U18yrs George Wilson
 10½st David Miller
 11 st Andrew Carlisle
 12 st John Harrington
 13st Richard Fox
 14 st Graham Brocklebank
 15 st Graham Brocklebank
 All weights Robert Leiper



January 15th 2016

ACADEMIES ARE FLOURISHING IN SPITE OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday, January 20th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points Night at Currock House.

.How is Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling faring this soggy Winter?... Better than expected is the answer. Landslides and huge gravel deposits on sports fields have no effect on us because in Winter the sport retreats indoors to village and school halls, sports pavilions and community centres.

The smallest academy, Milnthorpe, which meets every Thursday from 7pm to 8.15 in the Dallam Junior Football Pavilion beside the Beetham Road Car Park, has had "a new start", in the words of its organiser and coach, David Parsons. The club had been dwindling as his health diminished in recent years, but a heart operation returned him and his club to full vigour. After being in the doldrums his club had what he called "a bottom end sudden intake", a new set of youngsters for him to coach.

Kendal Academy, nearby, meets each Friday in Burnieside Cricket Pavilion from 7.30pm onwards under the tutelage of John Wilson supported by Adrian Bland and the two Hodgson sisters, Tracey and Connie. Without quite reaching the numbers of last year, they still manage to have over sixteen entries in the under 6st competitions and "never finish on time" because of the host of keen young wrestlers. On the down-side is a broken wrist suffered by Connie Hodgson, who is doing a sports course at Lancaster College.

Down West Cumbria, Waberthwaite Academy meets in the Village Hall each Monday with an early session at 6.30 for the younger wrestlers and 7.30 for the rest. The organiser, Tom Porter reports healthy numbers throughout, but especially Junior School age. A new phenomenon in the club is a group of lasses that train with the lads and can beat them, too. Each year Tom Porter invites coaching expertise from other academies to take a session at his club, and Tom Harrington is due soon.

Let the Rothbury organiser, Darren Whitfield, speak for himself:

"Our night remains a Wednesday with two sessions between 6.30-8.30pm U10/Over 10. Term Time Only at Dr Thomlinson's Middle School, Rothbury. Next Session Wednesday 13th January. We have been steadily increasing in junior members since starting in September after the school holidays and between the two sessions we are getting up to fifty (so it's a bit manic!), all U18. We've had to call on the assistance of Paul Barber to enable us to have three pairs on the mat at the same time."



Carlisle Wrestling Club does not have the numbers that some of the academies have, but has a good batch of young wrestlers at present. They hone their skills under the watchful eye of three great champions, Tom Harrington, Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile, and meet each Wednesday in Currock Community Centre Gym beginning at 7.30pm.

In the meantime, as I type this, a message comes in from Wrestling Association Chairman, Linda Scot, and Rothbury coach, Jason Davidson, on their way to Brittany for a refereeing course:

"Jason set off from home at around 10pm to meet me at Southwaite and start our journey to the Poole - Cherbourg ferry. Four inches of snow meant he was going nowhere. He phoned his mate who works for the council driving the snow plough and chucked wellies and snow shovel in the boot. Within ten minutes his mate arrived and cleared the snowfall. Grip was not good on the hill but he made it, dodging abandoned vehicles on the way!"

We are about 30 miles from Poole harbour with plenty of time to spare! Berrien here we come!"... It's all happening.

January 22nd 2016

'SO, WHAT IS DIFFERENT'?

NEWS UPDATES

TBA

Any normal weekly wrestling session at Carlisle Wrestling Club is full of action, chatter, history and a modern framework for an age-old sport. In the here and now youngsters thrive under the eyes of three coaches. That session moves to a concentration on Raughtonhead Young Farmers who have turned up to be tuned up for the wrestling competitions at the Northern Area YFC Field Day. As the crash-mat is tidied away the serious business of the Men's Points Night for January begins. The Young Farmers stay to try their luck. Andrew Carlile duly wins the Lightweights, but in the Middleweights loses a fall to Philip Potts who is unbeaten. The Heavyweight section with its core of trained wrestlers and the influx of Young Farmers is a tough competition wrestled in a round-robin format.



In the middle of it all Philip Potts fells Jake Armstrong with a spectacular cross-buttock; and in the very next fall, Ben Harrison, allowed to stay up late by his mum, fells the mighty Joe Thompson with a late twist. In the end Joe's winning superiority is confirmed when he fells David Barnes in a wrestle-off for first place.

I watch and enjoy the action but at the same time I see all the connections which give a core to Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling. Forty-five years ago I taught David Barnes' father to wrestle at lunch-time sessions at Trinity School.



In the early seventies Phil Potts' father Andy and his three brothers rattled up the stairs to the Judo Room at Strand Road Sports Centre, and I remember in 1956 when their father "Ikey" Potts was the smartest wrestler around.



When Ben Harrison wrestles I see the ginger hair of his grand-dad Billie, 14th Champion in 1965. And it is the same with the Wharton family where I see the Wharton twins setting the pace in the sixties and the next generation, Robert and John, thriving in the eighties and nineties.





Watching over it all is Tom Harrington, still coaching forty-six years after he and I set up Carlisle Wrestling Club.

So, what is different? Now, all the coaches are qualified and have their First-Aid training, and Matty Hodgson sits with an ice-pack on a bruised shoulder. Alf Harrington checks my passport and a utility bill as part of the Disclosure and Barring Service for Child Protection. [I chat to Linda Scott about her trip last week-end to Brittany for an international referees' training course along with Sardinians, Austrians and Icelanders.](#) She passes on messages from some of my Breton friends.

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling is simple in its heart, but also surprisingly complex and intertwined.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Carlisle Wrestling Club - Junior Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	M Hodgson	D Reeses	T Coulthard	J Wharton
7 Stone	J Gibson	C Wharton	J Wharton	P Bowman
8½ Stone	C Wharton	J Gibson	M Hodgson	D Harrison
10 Stone	M Wharton	A Marston	G Coulthard	R Armstrong
Girls 8½ Stone	P Bowman			
Girls Open	G Coulthar	P Bowman	A Marston	
Under 12 Years	J Gibson	M Hodgson	J Wharton	P Bowman
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	C Wharton	J Wharton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	O Watson	A Marston	R Armstrong
Best Performance	John Gibson			

Carlisle Wrestling Club - Men's Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A Carlile	J Dixon		
13 Stone	P Potts	A Carlile	B Harrison	J Dixon
All Weights	J Thompson	D Barnes	J Ewart	P Potts

January 28th 2016

THE DUKESFIELD PROJECT

NEWS UPDATES

TBA

Nowadays you buy Gym Membership and Lycra to keep fit. A hundred years ago and more, you just went to work. Farm-workers carried sixteen stone bags of corn from the threshing-machine, up stone steps, to the granary; shepherds walked the high fells and, in the sheep-pens, caught and turned yowes for clipping and lambing; miners, stripped to the waist, crouched down on their hunkers in low tunnels as they hewed the coal with pick and shovel.

Roger Robson, my father, told me tales of wrestling in the hayfields of his youth, before the First World War; and of his wrestling mate, Walter Wearmouth, a Weardale miner in the 1920s, with his immense power of shoulders and thighs from his daily work.



A clipping from the Hexham Courant from November alerted me to a recently published book:

Images of Industry: North Pennines Lead Miners in the Regency Period by Ian Forbes, a past director of Killhope Lead Mining Museum in Upper Weardale. The book contains water-colours and pencil drawings purchased by London's Science Museum Library in 1985, and looks back two hundred years to a time of intense hand-labour in the lead-mining industry which dominated the moors and valleys where Durham, Northumberland and Cumberland meet: Alston Moor.

While the images, finished and half-sketched, concentrate on the various processes of extraction and purification of the lead ore, they also focus in fine detail on people, horses and dogs. Three of the images focus on miners in their own time away from work. "November 5th 1813" shows "the Great Drink" when "Drinking from their Nov 5th mugs, vomiting, urinating, fighting, dancing or simply collapsing, the miners are making the most of their employers' generosity". "Effects of Alston Brewery" shows two miners coming to blows outside what is probably Allenheads' Public House.

And then there is "Wrestling, Sports". Two powerful miners, stripped to the waist, tek hod, Cumberland and Westmorland style. The thews of their arms and backs, the tension of their stance and their facial features are rendered in observant detail so precise that the position of the hands must also be scrupulously accurate. One wrestler grasps his own wrist; the other intertwines his fingers like a novice, so these men are not experienced wrestlers, professionals, but two miners settling a challenge.

At the back is a crowd of onlookers, faintly sketched in pencil, in their big hats and intense concentration on the bout. At the front, three men kneel to have a better view of the outcome, the judges.

These men are wrestling after work like my father in the hayfield, and showing the power and grit of Walter Wearmouth, the Weardale miner, but in the Regency Period, 1811 to 1820, two hundred years ago, when thousands of extra spectators flocked to the Swifts Race Course at Carlisle to see the wrestling.

[The book, priced at £28 including postage, is not available in many bookshops, but an enquiry to ianpeathill@gmail.com would find a copy. "All profits from the book go to the "Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project" which was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Every penny of the cover price is put towards the Dukesfield project to ensure the long term maintenance of the remains of this smelt mill in Hexhamshire."]

February 4th 2016

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CELTIC WRESTLING (FILC) CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEWS UPDATES

Wednesday February 10th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points

Wednesday February 17th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points.

The International Federation of Celtic Wrestling (FILC) has its thirtieth birthday party this year. In 1986 we took a team of seven wrestlers to the huge Celtic Festival in the seaport of Lorient to compete against the Bretons, the Scots and the Icelanders in the first European Championships. We came second to the Bretons, but in the following year won the competition in Glasgow.

This year the Championships will be organised by the Bretons in Brest Arena in April when twelve countries are invited to bring teams to compete. News that a new category has been added this week for Under 21 females at +70kg prompted me to look at what is on offer and I discovered the web-site of the organising committee: www.cocelic.com which is well worth a look.

Gone are the days of youth hostels and sleeping on wooden floors. The Bretons have found funding for a major event with a full week of hotel accommodation, activities and competition, before the all important "Soirée de Gala" to round off the week with a big party.

The wrestling categories are as follows:

Under 21 males (7 classes): -57, -62, -68, -74, -81, -90, +90kg

Seniors males (7 classes): -62, -68, -74, -81, -90, -100, +100kg

Seniors females (6 classes): -50, -56, -63, -70, -80, -90kg

And exceptionally for that championship (30th anniversary):

Under 21 females (4 classes): -47, -53, -60, -70, +70kg



Jason Davidson, one of the main coaches at Rothbury Academy is organising our wrestlers and if anyone is interested please contact Jason Davidson on 07979 375949.

In 1986 there was a lot of internal opposition to the widening of traditional wrestling's horizons and the Bretons arrived to compete in our events. Names seemed impossible to spell at the table and pronounce on the microphone. European Championships clashed with our events and took our best wrestlers away when entries were already thin. The turning point came when the late Willie Hudspith of Allendale spoke up in a Governing Board Meeting and said that our team should go to compete even though it directly affected his beloved Allendale Show.

So, what do we get out of it? Now, thirty years later we expect the Bretons, the Icelanders and the Scots to be here for the Grasmere week; our wrestlers love to compete each year in the Breton Backhold Championships. Instead of an insular, parochial sport hidden in the Lakeland valleys, Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling is an integral part of a wider international community of action, sport and friendship.

February 11th 2016

WHO WAS THOMAS TUNSTALL ?

NEWS UPDATES

Wednesday February 17th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night

The February Junior Points Competition at Carlisle Wrestling Club saw the honours evenly spread round the younger and lighter wrestlers. Matty Hodgson set the early pace when he felled Jonathan Wharton in the final of the 6 Stones, and then went on to win the 7 Stones in a bigger field. Much the same entry then figured in the 8½ Stones, but this time Jack Harrison of Abbeytown turned the tables on Matty in the first round and went on to fell Connor Wharton in the final.

In the keenly contested Under 12 Years it was John Gibson's turn to shine. In a final with Vinnie Davidson he showed how inside-clicks should be done, laying his opponent flat on his back without a leg to stand on. Earlier in this category Vinnie Davidson and Jonathan Wharton had an



epic struggle before a
laughter.

close fall. The judges gave the fall to Vinnie. "Thank-you," says he to general

In the top category, the Under 18s, Thomas Gibson, proved unbeatable again with his mixture of weight, strength and skill. In the final he met Mark Wharton who had already won two weights.

For that and the skilful variety of his wrestling Mark was the young wrestler who was awarded the trophy for the best performance of the night as decided by coaches and judges.

A hundred and fifteen years ago another young wrestler won a prestigious trophy in Carlisle. "Thos. Tunstall (Great Broughton) Winner of Championship Belt at Carlisle (Whitsuntide, 1900)" it says under a mucky photograph in a strong frame. And that is all I know.



Some months ago a carrier bag with the picture, another with broken glass and a Carlisle Wrestling Belt were handed over to Joe Harrington the Wrestling Association President and his wife, Irene, and they passed them on to me. The pictures had obviously hung on somebody's wall for a long time and recorded a proud moment in someone's life, but what do you do with such relics when the family has no place for them?

Does anyone know anything about Thomas Tunstall? I can find no sign of him in the Grasmere results of the time. Was this his only success or was he a prolific winner? Was he a collier or a shepherd, or what?...Help!

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Carlisle Wrestling Club - Junior Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	M Hodgson	J Wharton		
7 Stone	M Hodgson	C Wharton	J Gibson	P Bowmwan
8½ Stone	J Harrison	C Wharton	J Gibson	V Davidson.
10 Stone	M Wharton	A Marston	R Armstrong	J Gibson
Girls 8½ Stone	P Bowman			
Girls Under 18 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard		
Under 12 Years	J Gibson	V Davidson	C Wharton	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	R Armstrong	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	M Wharton	O Dean	B Harrison
Best Performance	Mark Wharton			

February 18th 2016

SENIOR POINTS NIGHT AT CURROCK HOUSE, CARLISLE

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday, 27th February -Breton Backhold Championships in Quimper

Saturday, 19th March - Angus Backhold Championships in Carnoustie Leisure Centre

The differences between practice wrestling and the real thing, and between wrestling innocence and experience, were amply clearly seen in the Currock House Gym in Carlisle this week. The usual weekly practice night was full of movement and action, youngsters and Young Farmers in training, and the crash mat. Usually there are three coaches, but illness and a family visit cancelled out two, leaving Andrew Carlile to keep things moving until David Miller arrived and gave a helping hand.

There was a short period of chatty confusion as the early wrestlers left and the contenders in the men's points night weighed in. In the absence of

Alan Jones I found myself back in my old role at the table, writing names and drawing round-robin grids in preparation for the action. "First pair in: Kieran Miller and Andrew Carlile," says I with my schoolmaster voice penetrating the chatting in the room. Then, as if a switch had been thrown, a bout of sustained intensity instantly began in the centre of the mat and then swirled round the edge before Andrew felled Kieran with a cross-buttock, and the onlookers spontaneously applauded the skills and effort displayed. And it went on and on and on; one bout after another for ninety minutes. There were no big silver cups, no fat prize-money, no championships at stake; the wrestlers were wrestling for pride and love of the sport.



Eventually in the lightweights David Miller went through his bouts unbeaten, and his brother Kieran had to be content with third place...or not, perhaps, because Kieran then went onwards and upwards in the middleweights. When eight wrestlers compete in a round-robin, there are twenty eight bouts to decide the eventual result. But even that was not enough because both John Harrington and Kieran Miller had dropped a single fall, so they had to match up, sudden death, to decide the overall winner. Harrington had lost a surprise fall to newcomer, Ian Clemetson and had felled Miller, first time through, but was felled in the decider.

Three big men joined the list for the All Weights, and some of the lighter men sat back as spectators. Jimmy Hall is a big strong lad, knows how to control his bouts, and went through the field unbeaten. Jack Ewart, too, was on great form, but lost narrowly to Hall and more surprisingly to an excellent throw from Ian Clemetson.

Ian Clemetson may not appear on the prize lists for the night, but I bet he drove home with pride having felled two of the best on the Currock House mats.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Carlisle Wrestling Club - Men's Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	D Miller	A Carlile	K Miller	D Harrison
13 Stone	K Miller	J Harrington	D Miller	A Carlile
All Weights	J Hall	J Ewart	J Harrington	D Miller

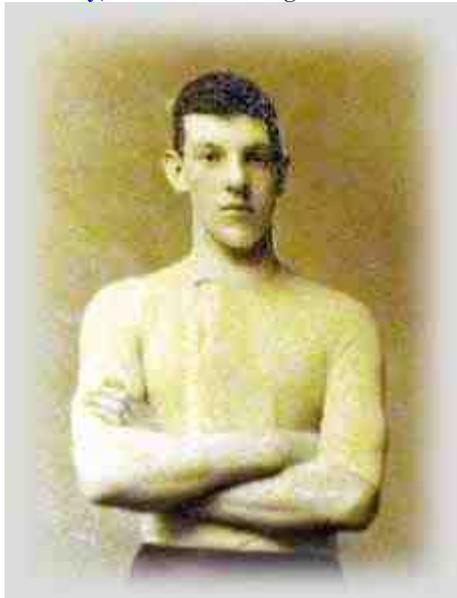
February 25th 2016

THOMAS TUNSTALL - PART 2

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday, 27th February - Breton Backhold Championships in Quimper

Saturday, 19th March - Angus Backhold Championships in Carnoustie Leisure Centre



"Help!" I cried two weeks ago when I wrote about a carrier bag, two framed pictures and a wrestling belt handed over to the Wrestling Association President, Joe Harrington. Who was Thomas Tunstall of Great Broughton who had won a wrestling championship at the Whitsun Sports at Carlisle in 1900?

All that could be gleaned from the artefacts was that the winning of the belt was sufficiently momentous in someone's life to justify two large formal portrait photographs to hang on the parlour wall, and the clean preservation of the leather and metal of *"The Carlisle Belt"*.



In the end only Roy Lomas, author of *"Grasmere Sports, The First 150 Years"* responded with details of Tunstall's subsequent performances at Grasmere.

Several times a year requests for information come to me from people trying to fill in details of family history, and I always advise them to look in the local papers for the appropriate years and place. In the absence of any other lead I decided to follow my own advice and ended up on the microfiche machine at the Lanes Library looking at the Carlisle Patriot of 1900. The year and date were very specific, yet I nearly whizzed by it all as you could only see half the paper as the pages sped by.

First, I saw an article building up interest in the upcoming competition: *"Lovers of wrestling are promised good sport at Edenside, Carlisle, on Whit Monday"*

The event was obviously the culmination of efforts to keep wrestling alive amongst the youth of Cumberland and Westmorland:

"The movement is being well supported in the various districts, and efforts are being made by the various local sports committees to get their lads to Carlisle for the occasion. The Keswick, Threlkeld and Bassenthwaite lads are being looked after by old wrestlers in the district who take an interest in them; and as far as Ravenglass a special committee was appointed to see and get the lads to Carlisle."

"The association are again issuing twenty-five belts, but applications have been so numerous that they are already spoken for. They are handsome, and a number are on exhibition at the shops of Mr Simpson, saddler, Rickergate and Messrs Sewell, saddlers, Scotch Street." Such was the importance of the event that two full columns top to bottom of a big format newspaper were needed to cover the wrestling. Ninety-two men competed in the 11½ stones, and Thomas Tunstall was one of forty-four lads in the Youths' Championship Wrestling:

"Competition in this event was restricted to youths who had been in the 'last four' for the 24 district belts given by the Association to foster the sport among the lads of Cumberland and Westmorland. Forty-four of the 96 lads qualified were present and competed. They were all 'keen', and the wrestling was smart and skilful. The competitors were of all weights and sizes, but it was not always the bigger chap that won. The victory of J Tunstall of Great Broughton, was, however, early foreseen. This youth, although only 16 years of age, has already attained the height of six feet, and weighed in his wrestling costume 11st 11lbs. His opponents pluckily tackled him, but they failed to move the giant and were easily borne down. J Hyslop almost succeeded in hanking him in the fourth round, but he had not the strength to carry out the stroke and was laid on the ground...Tunstall's strength gave him an easy victory in the final falls, he twice twisting Kirkbride off the breast. The winner received a silver watch of the value of £5."



From Roy Lomas I learned that Thomas Tunstall competed at Grasmere from 1903 to 1910 with his best year in 1906 when he reached the fourth round where he was felled by J Strong of Blackpool.

His nadir was in 1908 when in the third round he and G Mashiter from Newby Bridge were both blown out for barneying.

In 1910 he went out in the first round and never competed at Grasmere again. Sic transit gloria mundi.

March 3rd 2016

170 WRESTLERS COMPETE IN THE BRETON BACKHOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016 AT QUIMPER BRITTANY

NEWS UPDATES

Wednesday 10th March - Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points

Wednesday 17th March - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points

Saturday, 19th March - Angus Backhold Championships in Carnoustie Leisure Centre

The biggest Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling event of 2016 has already taken place. In the city of Quimper in Brittany 170 wrestlers from six different countries came together for the Breton Backhold Championships. The youngsters' wrestling was a cross-Channel affair with competitors from Scotland and the North of England joining the locals. In the more senior bouts Sardinian, Polish and Congolese wrestlers joined in, too.

Rothbury Wrestling Club was the mainstay of the trip, but wrestlers from Carlisle and Waberthwaite mucked in, too. In all, a party of 26 including wrestlers, coaches, parents, and granddads made the long journey.

Satisfyingly, our wrestlers gained plenty of success: nearly half of them won championship trophies in the multitude of age, weight and gender categories. I particularly remember Harry Bertram's active style in defence and attack. Zak Singleton in his final won with three classic hipes, and Cade Whitfield was skilled and controlled in all his bouts. Michael Kirkham of Waberthwaite came away wanting more action as there were only two other wrestlers in his category for his dynamic approach to the sport.



Gus Singer was the most unfortunate wrestler, even though he came away with a championship trophy. Out of all the 170 wrestlers none was suitable to match Gus. Usually if a particular section has depleted entries the wrestlers compete in the category above, but as Gus was in the heaviest category for his age he had nowhere to go and no-one to wrestle.

Thomas Gibson, too, had his organisational problems. We all thought that we had watched him win the final of his group, but when the wrestlers were called to the podium, he was not on the top perch. In his bouts you saw his farm fitness meeting the gym fitness of the Polish wrestlers, and

no-one had bested him. By this time all the mats from the four rings had been spirited away so no show-down was possible and the two unbeaten wrestlers were declared equal first.



Immediately after the event the Breton selectors met to choose the team for the FILC European Championships in April. As a result all the best Breton wrestlers were on their mettle to perform at their best in the backhold wrestling which is one of the two styles in the Championship. "Your son, Ewen, was beautiful this afternoon," said I to Christian Salaun in an Irish bar later that night. By that I meant that Ewen's wrestling had a grace and simple elegance as he went through unbeaten in one of the biggest categories of the day. Martin Maussion, another regular visitor over here, was on spectacular form. The other Breton winner well known over here was Mathieu le Dour who graced our rings for several years.

News of the death of Brendan Healey, the North-East comedian and actor, brought back memories of him a few years back regularly appearing at our wrestling rings to support his son, Finn, who was competing well in the youths' wrestling. Once at Alston Gala, Brendan was even persuaded by his friend Josie Brown to compete in the wrestling....another comic tour-de-force.

Breton Backhold Championships RESULTS

CHAMPIONS: Robbie Bullock; Gus Singer; Harry Bertram; Zak Singleton; Michael Kirkham; Cade Whitfield; Thomas Gibson.

SILVER MEDAL: Jack Harrison; Jenny Harrison.

BRONZE MEDAL: Ben Harrison; Abi Marston; Anna Hindmarsh.

March 10th 2016

FINAL NIGHT OF CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB JUNIOR POINTS COMPETITION FOR 2015-2016

NEWS UPDATES

Wednesday 17th March - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points

Saturday, 19th March - Angus Backhold Championships in Carnoustie Leisure Centre

Saturday, 19th March (7.30pm) - Waberthwaite Academy Open Night, Ages: Under 8 yrs / 10yrs / 12yrs / 14yrs / 16 yrs / 18yrs ;

Weights: 5st / 7st / 9st / 11st / 13st / AW / Ladies.

Carlisle Wrestling Club rounded off its 2015-16 Junior Points Competition, which has been running since last October, with a night of spirited and youthful wrestling in a centrally heated gymnasium at Currock House, on wall-to-wall modern wrestling mats, with a crash-mat nearby.



Sixty-seven years earlier a youthful Robert Carter lined up with all the other men in Carlisle Academy of 1949 for a photograph before a match with Gilsland Academy on coco-mats in a paint-flaked village hall. He has died recently, the last of all those men, and was buried at Westward Church on Thursday.

Robert Carter had a brief and highly successful spell in Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling just after the Second World War. In 1948, at the age of eighteen, he came equal third in the 11 stones at Grasmere, but improved in the following year when he won the event. In the same year he became 11st World Champion in a boom time for the sport when, at Burgh, he felled A Little in the final. In the following year, in the final at Great Orton, he felled the holder of the 12 stones title, Jack Salisbury from Hambleton in Lancashire.



His active wrestling career did not last long, but in 1963 he was elected to the Governing Board of the Wrestling Association. A keen stockman, he was noted for his Simmental cattle and Suffolk sheep, and he became a noted judge of both wrestling and livestock. He judged many an All Weights Championship and travelled widely to judge cattle. From 1971 to 2003 he was Chairman of the Governing Board and retired as a Board member in 2014.

Back in 2016, in the Currock House Gym, the wrestling spoils were well divided, with nine different winners. Many of the Points Trophies were already won by previous accumulation of points: Mattie Hodgson had won all the previous 6 stones competitions and Thomas Gibson in the Under 18s had only slipped up once.



The biggest winner on the night was John Gibson who came from behind Connor Wharton in the 8½ stons to force a wrestle-off for the trophy, which he won. Connor in the meantime had been one of three wrestlers on 14 points in the 7 stons and came through to win. John Gibson's great night of wrestling continued when he went ahead of Matty Hodgson in Under 12 Years, and was then awarded the trophy for the best wrestling performance of the night.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Carlisle Wrestling Club - March Junior Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	M Hodgson	J Wharton		
7 Stone	C Wharton,	M Hodgson	Jack Harrison	J Gibson
8½ Stone	Jack Harrison	V Davidson	J Gibson	M Hodgson
10 Stone	M Wharton	G Coulthard	Jack Harrison	Jenny Harrison
Girls Open	A Marston	G Coulthard	J Harrison	
Under 12 Years	J Gibson,	C Wharton	J Wharton	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	Jenny Harrison	Jack Harrison	M Wharton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	O Ewart	M Wharton	D Harrison
Best Wrestler Trophy	John Gibson			

March 17th 2016

FINAL NIGHT OF CARLISLE WRESTLING SENIOR POINTS COMPETITION FOR 2015-2016

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday, 19th March 10am - Angus Backhold Championships in Carnoustie Leisure Centre

Saturday, 19th March (7.30pm) - Waberthwaite Academy Open Night, Ages: Under 8 yrs / 10yrs / 12yrs / 14yrs / 16 yrs / 18yrs ;

Weights: 5st / 7st / 9st / 11st / 13st / AW / Ladies.

Ever since 1970 when Carlisle Wrestling Club was launched Men's Points Nights have given a competitive boost and focus to winter training. Nearly all Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling is organised on a knock-out basis, but these internal club competitions use the round-robin system where all the wrestlers have a single hold against every other wrestler in their group.

In the 11½ stons only two wrestlers were able to weigh in, so the group was decided on a single fall between the Miller brothers, David and Kieran from Aspatria. Quantity was missing, but quality was not: the brothers hiped and swirled round the whole mat before Kieran came out on top.



The 13 stons had four competitors so that meant six bouts to decide the outcome. Andrew Carlile was in at the beginning and the end, and both bouts merited the accolade of an asterisk in my notepad to mark an exceptional bout. In his first he swung David Miller away on a hipe and then back-heeled him as he landed. In the last bout he cut through Kieran Miller's attacking potential and dumped him with the neatest of back-heels.

When the number of wrestlers rises the number of bouts in a round-robin increases exponentially; an entry of eight in the All Weights meant twenty-eight bouts, with each wrestler taking on seven opponents. Although there was a wide range of weight and experience, there was no weak link in the line-up: every bout was competitive. Former champion David Barnes must be ring-rusty, but it did not show when he started the proceedings against Jack Ewart with a full on hank, a rare chip for so big a wrestler.

Another asterisked fall was when Kieran Miller felled Ian Clemetson after a series of twists from each man. Then, David Miller found the extra zip and height to hipe his brother Kieran, at last. Andrew Carlile reached into the freestyle-wrestling arsenal when he felled Clemetson with a

salto.



In the meantime Joe Thompson back-heeled and twisted with power and competence, on his way to another All Weights win. Ian Clemetson, on the other hand, was without a win, despite featuring in some of the best bouts of the night. Then he met Joe, and was immediately put under intense pressure. Somehow, though, he survived and buttocked his man as clean as a whistle. Clemetson has been a regular at the club recently and you can see the way that the individual training from multi-champions Tom Harrington, Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile is transforming raw talent into real potential for the wrestling rings this summer.

The Carlisle Club's indoor season concludes next Wednesday when all the Points Trophies will be presented, and the next Young Farmers Club will be put through their paces... And the writer Toby Litt, whose ancestor, William Litt, wrote "Wrestliana" in 1823, will be travelling up from London to be put through the wrestling mill on the Carlisle mats, all for the sake of art. Mad or what?

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Carlisle Wrestling Club - March Senior Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	K. Miller	D. Miller		
13 Stone	A Carlile	K Miller	D Miller	I Clemetson
All Weights	J Thompson	D Barnes	A Carlile	D Miller

Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points Trophy Winners 2015 - 2016

11½st - Andrew Carlile; 13st - Andrew Carlile; All Weights - Joe Thompson.

March 24th 2016

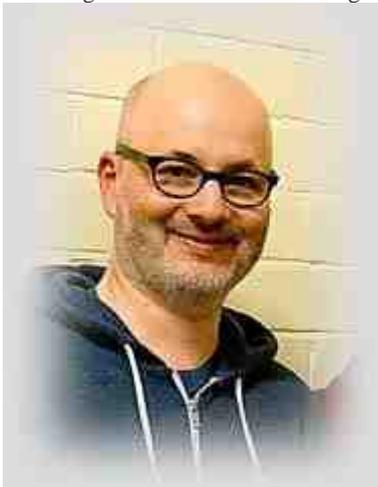
PRINCE CHARLES VISITS FLOOD-HIT CUMBRIA AND KESWICK SHOW 2016 IS CANCELLED.

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling has had a busy week with action worlds apart at Waberthwaite and Carnoustie, the Wrestling Association Annual General Meeting, visits by Prince Charles and author Toby Litt, and the cancellation of Keswick Show 2016.



John Gibson had a busy and varied day on Wednesday when he donned his best wrestling gear at Ullswater School in the morning and was introduced to Prince Charles who was on a morale-boosting visit to flood-hit Cumbria. In chatting to John the prince asked various questions about the type of competitions, and said he had watched the bouts at Braemar Highland Gathering. In return, John gave the prince a copy of the

DVD of images of last season's wrestling. In it, his mother, Gillian Gibson, co-secretary of the Association



had slipped a note saying that if he returned at the right time in the summer, he might get a job judging. In the evening, John then met the other celebrity visitor from the South, when Toby Litt presented young Carlisle wrestlers with their Points Trophies for the 2015-16 indoor season. Toby Litt is a well-published author who just happens to be the Great-Great-Great Grandson of William Litt a famous wrestler just after the end of the Napoleonic Wars and author in 1823 of our wrestling bible, "Wrestliana". His present project is a book inspired by his ancestor which will also be entitled "Wrestliana" and is due for publication later this year. He is due to visit Montreal in Canada where William Litt fled in dubious circumstances, but in the meantime he travelled up from his home in the London area especially to



sample a bit of wrestling under the tutelage of Andrew Carlile.

A goodly batch of Rothbury wrestlers travelled up to Carnoustie for the Angus Backold Championships. At the end of Summer the Scots make the effort to travel in numbers to Alwinton Show, and this is the Northumbrians chance to reciprocate. Thomas Davidson (10½st) and Findlay Wragg (Open) won their Under 17 Years classes. Max Bates went one better winning at both 5½ and 6½ stones, and was honoured with the trophy for the best boy wrestler.

At Waberthwaite Open Night there were fewer wrestlers from other academies this year. The Connor brothers, Callum and Dylan, had done well in their Points competitions along with Michael Kirkham and Tom Johnson. In the Open competitions Harry Wilson did well to win twice, and Carlisle wrestler, Jack Ewart was again the winner of the All Weights.

At the Association AGM the individual membership fee doubled to £20 per annum, and the years between holding senior championships was reduced from three to two years.

Keswick Show which was such a success last year when it hosted the All Weights Championship with wrestlers from Brittany, Iceland and Scotland taking part has just announced that it is cancelled for 2016. The Secretary said, "The new site for the Show was badly affected [by flooding] and needs time to recover...we are another casualty of Storm Desmond."

Finally, make sure you watch "Secret Britain" next Wednesday, 30th March, on BBC1 at 9pm. The episode is entitled "The Lakes" and I expect it to cover a day's wrestling at Crosby Ravensworth and Grayrigg Shows.

March 31st 2016

' SECRET BRITAIN' VISITS 'THE LAKES'

NEWS UPDATES

CWWA REFEREES & JUDGES MEETING

Tuesday 26th April 7.30pm, Small Hall, Currock House, Carlisle

MORE DETAILS BELOW

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling reached a nationwide audience this week when it featured prominently on the prime-time BBC 1 programme "Secret Britain".

"The Lakes" was the first episode of the new series and depended greatly on the experiences and interviews of the three presenters: athlete Denise Lewis, "Country File's" Ellie Harrison and Strictly Come Dancing winner Chris Hollins...all with the magnificent background of our wonderful county.

The section on wrestling was different as we and our sport spoke for ourselves. No imported interviewer was involved, and those of us taking part had no idea if the material was even going to be used until twenty-to-nine on Wednesday night. All we knew was that researchers had talked to a few of us at Kirkby Lonsdale Show and as a result of that the focus was to be on Grayrigg Show, Abi Marston, Gemma Coulthard who is my granddaughter, and me.



In the end the production team decided to follow Gemma from home as she set out to compete. Filming began at 7.30am in meticulous and repetitive detail, and followed us to Crosby Ravensworth Show, then across the Orton Fell road to Grayrigg Show, then back again to the edge of Orton Common for final shots of me standing shivering in a cold wind at 10pm.

I have previously been involved with interviews which lasted about ten minutes and then were reduced to what seemed like ten seconds of viewing time, but this was different: the cliché of the day seemed to be the producer saying, "That was perfect...right, let's do it again." When Gemma came back to her place after winning her class, I naturally said, "Well done, lass; I'm proud of you." But the camera-man missed that, so I had to say it again... ten times.

I am the worst person to give a critique on the programme, but it seemed to me that there was plenty of action, particularly involving Ben Brocklebank, a simple explanation of our sport and good shots of the wrestling strips and the crowd.



Some of the action was too close, with the camera crew encroaching on the ring, giving the referees extra safety problems which do not normally exist. The Governing Board discussed the matter and no future filming will be allowed to compromise safety.

Although the theme of the series is "Secret Britain", I struggled with the concept of secrecy, because, after all, the rules say that our competitions are "Open to the world". We try through newspaper articles, internet and international connections to spread the word, and Grayrigg Show did have wrestlers from Scotland, Brittany and Iceland in the ring. But I sort of know what they mean. Ours is the ultimate minority sport, unnoticed by Sport England with its fixation on Olympic sports.

Nevertheless, the Secret Britain programme brought to a wide audience the strongly beating heart of our local wrestling, and as my sister said on Facebook, "Gemma did very well. Just as if she was on TV often."

April 7th 2016

OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

NEWS UPDATES

CWWA REFEREES & JUDGES MEETING

Tuesday 26th April 7.30pm, Small Hall, Currock House, Carlisle

MORE DETAILS BELOW

You never know what you are going to turn up when you start digging. Many months ago I was given a carrier bag with two big, framed photos of a wrestler, Thomas Tunstall, and a Carlisle Wrestling belt. This package stayed as clutter nagging me to do something about it until I decided to ask if anyone out there knew anything about him. "Help!" I said.

The response was not overwhelming (two phone calls, in fact), but one was Roy Lomas, the author of "Grasmere Sports, the First 150 Years" who gave me details of Tunstall's limited performances at Grasmere in the early 1900s. Still the story of the championship belt won at the Whitsuntide Sports in Carlisle 1900 was hidden, so I did what I advise anyone who is researching wrestling ancestors, I went to the library to look at the old newspapers of the time, and that was the start of an odd chain of events.

En route, I dropped into a bookshop to buy a copy of a book that a friend had just published, but it was not yet available. In looking at the display of local books a familiar name jumped out, David Ellison. I knew his name because he had followed our wrestling regularly with his big camera for some years and had an exhibition of his wrestling portraits at Tullie House Museum. His new book was called "Herdwick Common" and contained his distinctive photos of the sheep and their owners, and odd bits of equipment, and an introduction by James Rebus of Herdie Shepherd fame.



At the library I asked for the film spool of "The Carlisle Patriot" for 1900, and settled down to search for Thomas Tunstall's hey-day. I learned about wrestling academies at Penrith and Keswick, and sports at Penrith Gala. At Southwaite I was fascinated to see that "Knight's Lodge Athletic Club" held their first wrestling competition in the Auction Mart". A hundred miles from here and over sixty years ago, my father had told me about the Nichol brothers of Knight's Lodge. Now I live within a mile of that farm.

As the librarian told me that they closed in ten minutes, I realised that I had been given the spool for the wrong year for it talked about R Mitchell (whose descendants do my silaging) being the 8½st champion and I knew that was not in 1900. Another visit was needed and that gave me the information I need to complete an article.

At home I settled down to read James Rebank's introduction to David Ellison's book, and I was struck by the notion that everything he wrote about the Herdwick farming tradition could equally apply to my own world of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling: "People are beginning to forget what makes the Lake District a special place...It is time to remember why shepherds and the old ways matter...I've always believed that what we are makes the world richer for everyone else as well, that some of our rural cultures are essential bits of what the BBC calls 'cultural diversity'."

And only this week that notion was reinforced when I went to the Theatre by the Lake to see "The Shepherd's Life", Chris Monk's adaptation of James Rebank's book for the stage. The film loop which set the scene before the play began, with its images of sheep and mountains and snow, had brief wrestling action with Rosie Hodgson and Millie Harrison. And in the play itself the creation of a country show onstage was indicated by a tannoy announcement asking for entries for the wrestling.



Herdwick sheep, local wrestling, hound trailing , gurning, shepherds' meets, fell races and country sports, are all an intertwined and rich heritage making the Lake District much more than just a beautiful landscape.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

(A role play meeting for all Referees & Judges and those with interest)

The Small Hall in Currock House is booked for Tuesday 26th April 7.30pm for a Referees & Judges Meeting. Role play will be incorporated with Tom Harrington refereeing some taxing situations. All those who are already involved in refereeing and judging and anyone interested in becoming involved are invited. The Development Committee feel the need for existing officials and potential individuals to attend. Some people may only officiate at one or two events in the whole season but it is very important for them to attend the meeting and keep up to date with what is required.

April 14th 2016

CHANGES FOR 2016

NEWS UPDATES

KENDAL ACADEMY OPEN NIGHT Saturday April 23rd - 7.30pm - Burneside, Kendal:

Classes for 5st / 7st / 9st / 11st / 13st / AW / U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies U10st & Ladies AW.

CWWA REFEREES & JUDGES MEETING

Tuesday 26th April 7.30pm, Small Hall, Currock House, Carlisle

MORE DETAILS BELOW

Sunday May 1st - Hethersgill Vintage Society (the opening event of the new season).

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling has continued much the same over three centuries, but small changes occur which keep the sport relevant to the present day. After careful consideration over several meetings the Governing Board of the Wrestling Association has introduced **women's championships** for the first time. At Ambleside Sports in July the first Ladies All Weights Championship will be held, and at Bellingham Show in late August the 10st Ladies Championship is on the programme.

The Association stipulates the minimum prize-money on offer for championships, and there will be at least £200 on offer for the Ladies' All Weights and over £150 for the 10 stones. This compares with the £250 minimum for the men's senior championships. The challenge trophies on offer have also to reflect the importance of the event and one of them at least has come from the George Steadman collection which is housed at the Cumbrian County Archives but is owned by the Wrestling association. From there the Henderson Trophy is to have a new base and a metal band to record the winners, and a special box to keep it safe on its travels.



All championship officials have to be members of the Board, so it was a struggle to find lady judges. As a result, the CWWA chairman, Linda Scott will be called upon to referee both female events, and co-secretary Gillian Gibson will also officiate. Linda is growing used to the pressures of refereeing as she will be in action in the European Championships which are held next week in Brest.

Another championship change this year is that Grasmere Sports has applied for and been allocated the 11st



Championship. In the Foot-and-Mouth disease year, 2001, they were hosts for two championships: the Under 18s and the 11 stones, but that was to help out in a year when few events took place. Otherwise Grasmere did not apply for title events because it was a sufficiently prestigious and ancient event to stand alone. This year that policy has changed and the 11st event has been allocated to them.

Eighteen events applied for thirteen championships this year, so there was real choice available in the allocation meeting. Alwinton Show, celebrating its 150 year anniversary, was allocated the All Weights to round off the 2016 Grass Season, and Haltwhistle Gala, slightly younger, is proudly celebrating 25 years with the 13 stones Championship.

It is not long until the Summer action begins: I only hope the mud dries up.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

(A role play meeting for all Referees & Judges and those with interest)

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April 21st 2016

FROM GRASS ROOTS TO BROAD HORIZONS

NEWS UPDATES

KENDAL ACADEMY OPEN NIGHT Saturday April 23rd - 7.30pm - Burneside, Kendal:

Classes for 5st / 7st / 9st / 11st / 13st / AW / U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies U10st & Ladies AW.

CWWA REFEREES & JUDGES MEETING

Tuesday 26th April 7.30pm, Small Hall, Currock House, Carlisle

MORE DETAILS BELOW

Sunday May 1st - 1230 - Hethersgill Vintage Society

U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½St / AW.

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

Thirty-one years ago, under the headline "Broadening our horizons" I wrote in my Cumberland News article: "Cumberland and Westmorland wrestlers, me included, tend to be inward looking. We are concerned about wrestling entries at Allendale, Joe Harrington's cartilage or what angle Donald Dayson's head should be when he is wrestling. The idea that there could be wrestling north of Gretna and south of Preston scarcely crosses our minds."

My article was responding to the first green shoots of international contacts. In the spring of 1985 four of our wrestlers attended a course at Ti ar Gouren, the house of wrestling at Berrien in mid Brittany where they wrestled and slept on the same mats; in August three Bretons competed at Dalston Show, and Guy Jaouen felled the mighty Mike Hayton in the final of the Novices. "Mention has been made of a triangular match between the Bretons, the Cornishmen and ourselves with competitions in each style."

In 1986, in the seaport of Lorient, at their massive Celtic Festival, the Bretons hosted the first international with teams from Brittany, Scotland, Cumbria and Cornwall. An early injury to Gary Crozier removed our chances of a team win, but we came an honourable second. My son Simon Robson did well to win his section in both the Cornish and Backhold styles.

Despite the success of our wrestlers, there was controversy at the next CWWA Governing Board meeting when some members argued that such events should not take place if they took wrestlers from domestic competitions.

Nevertheless, in the following year, 1987, in Glasgow both we and the competition moved on to higher planes. Wrestlers from Friesland and Iceland were added to the lists, and Cumbria came first after our wrestlers were unbeaten in their own style.

Thirty years later, as you read this article our team will be in competition with wrestlers from Austria, Brittany, Congo, Scotland, Iceland, Leon (N. Spain), Poland, Sardinia, and the USA. We have hosted the championship twice, but it would be difficult to emulate what the Bretons have provided for these championships which include four different team events for Youth competitions for males and females and the same for the Seniors. The hosts provide hotel accommodation for over a hundred wrestlers and number of officials. Money from the European Union has made the project viable. Is that an argument for leaving or remaining in the EU?



Meanwhile, the Wrestling Association announced a role play meeting for all Referees & Judges and those with interest: [SEE BELOW](#). Existing officials may officiate at many events, or only at one or two, but it is equally important for all to attend and keep up to date with what is required. Don't forget that this is also an opportunity for those who have never officiated but would like to learn

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

(A role play meeting for all Referees & Judges and those with interest)

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April 28th 2016

CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE

NEWS UPDATES

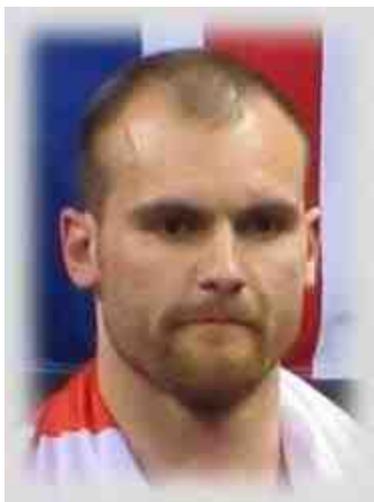
Sunday May 1st - 1230 - Hethersgill Vintage Society

U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½St / AW.

David Parsons has confirmed that Milnthorpe Academy will host the [Academy Shield Competition on Saturday 14th May](#) at Leasgill Athenaeum, Heversham, nr Milnthorpe LA7 7ET. *****

[CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016](#)

"Champion of Europe" has a goodly ring to it, and three of our wrestlers can say it with pride. At the Thirtieth Anniversary European Championships of Traditional Wrestling, held in the Brest Sports Arena in Brittany, eight wrestlers from our region competed in the Gouren style and in our own backhold wrestling.



Jack Brown won at 74kg, Jack Hale won at 90kg and Andrew Ord beat all-comers at 100kg. In addition Jack Hale came away with the trophy for the best wrestler in all the senior back-hold competitions held over four days Jack Hale first had to beat the scales before he could compete. In the days before the weigh-in he had to lose four kilograms (10lbs) and needed a long run on the morning of the weigh-in to complete the process. Luckily, he had a day to recover from dehydration and malnutrition before the action began.

Having breezed through the first qualifying day, he was confident of an overall win, but in his semi-final nearly proved the old cliché about pride coming before the fall. He hiped his Congolese opponent easily for the first fall, but then idled into a bad position for the next fall and was duly felled. Next he resorted to the swinging hipe, the best of his armoury, but went down on a knee. One fall away from defeat though, he tightened up and, with greater care and control, he hiped his way into the final. His Breton opponent was no match for him and Jack Hale confirmed his win with a final fall which swung his man twice round, low to the mat, before grounding him and finishing with a victory roll.



Jack Brown, at 74kg, had a nightmare start to the competition when he was subject to the worst bout of judging in the whole championships. Wrestling best-of-five, he eventually won by five bouts to two... according to our supporting group. He kept his composure and eventually reached the final against the toughest of Leonese wrestlers from Northern Spain. The Spaniard's defence was as tough as you can find anywhere, clinging on to the body when lifted, but Jack hiped and twisted to victory.

Andrew Ord was generally in complete control in the back-hold wrestling despite being in a tough group. He hiped when he could, but in the eventual final it was big back-heels with those long legs which won the day.



The whole championships was a lavish week of hospitality, culture and wrestling action. The Brest Arena holds four thousand spectators and for the last day around two thousand filled the place and made plenty of noise. They were partisan, but applauded skilful wrestling generously. Three Olympic standard wrestling mats held the action, large screens beside each mat kept the crowd up-to-date with the scores.



It will be a culture shock to turn out at Carlisle Aerodrome on Sunday for the opening event of the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season. I wonder how much snow there'll be.

May 5th 2016

GRASS SEASON ARRIVES

NEWS UPDATES

Milnthorpe Academy will host the **Academy Shield Competition on Saturday 14th May at 7pm at Leasgill Athenaeum, Heversham, nr Milnthorpe LA7 7ET.** There will be a free hot supper, with choices, available for all wrestlers, and spectators can purchase supper too. Depending on time and numbers of wrestlers taking part in The Shield, there may be time to run an Under 15 Junior Open Competition as well as a Senior Open Competition. This would enable those not in teams to participate. *****

[CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016](#)

It must be Summer: Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling is launched for 2016 with the first wrestling event at Hethersgill Vintage Rally. Last year had been a difficult one for the Rally because of poor weather and attendance, but they looked after the wrestlers well with decent prize-money and a good ring, and were rewarded by the attendance of high quality wrestlers from Kendal, Northumberland, Carnoustie and even Wemyss Bay.



The four Scots wrestlers added greatly to the sport, but only Fraser Hirsch reached the prize-list. He met Richard Fox in the final of the All Weights, and immediately provided referee, Paul Gibson, with a follow-up to the referees' meeting of the previous week by dropping his head down defensively. "Stop wrestling!" says Paul and the bout resumed with both wrestlers conforming and wrestling positively. Richard Fox has two specialities, the full buttock and the back-heel, and both came into play to give him the first win of the season.



Jack Brown, European Champion last week in the huge, super-modern, Brest Arena, was this week showing his skills amongst old tractors and under a lowering Cumbrian sky. John Harrington felled Andrew Carlile in the semi-final of the 12½ stones, to meet Jack Brown in the final. It was blacksmith versus farmer, so there was no shortage of strength; and both have years of training and experience, so there was no shortage of skill. In the end it was Jack Brown's height and inside-hips that won the day.

The two Gibson brothers were in good fettle in the Youths wrestling. Thomas won the Under 18s with power and purpose. And younger brother John celebrated his last Under 12s competition ever with a win in great style, with hipes and buttocks galore. Despite his small stature he has always been a great contender in any event he enters.



Mark Wharton has wintered well and was hiping well to win the Under 15s and then wrestle up to Thomas Gibson in the Under 18s. In the Ladies wrestling, Abi Marston and Gemma Coulthard tried their best but were out-weighed greatly by the winner, Vicky Beattie, from the Kendal Academy

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Hethersgill Vintage Rally

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Gibson	C Wharton	J Thompson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	J Guy	J Gibson
Under18 Years	T Gibson	M Wharton	T Hayhurst
Ladies Open	V Beattie	A Marston	G Coulthard
12½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	A Carlile
All Weights	R Fox	F Hirsch	D Miller

May 12th 2016

THE FIRST WOMEN'S ALL WEIGHTS WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP, CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND STYLE

NEWS UPDATES

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Saturday May 21st - 1.30pm - Sedbergh Gala U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs

Saturday May 28th Northern District YFC Field Day

Monday May 30th - 1.30pm - Northumberland Show U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18 yrs Championship / 12st / 13½st / AW / Ladies 10st / AW

Thursday June 2nd - Killington Sports U15 yrs and 8st Championship

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

Ambleside Sports, one of the most traditional events on the wrestling calendar, with its mix of Hound-Trailing, Fell and Track Running, Cycle Racing and Wrestling, is also one of the most progressive. For some years now their sports trust has sponsored wrestling in the schools of their area, and brought school teams to compete before the crowds at the beginning of the wrestling programme. So, it is totally appropriate that they should be the first event to stage the first



Women's All Weights Wrestling Championship, Cumberland and Westmorland style. Just to make sure that the world takes notice, they have used a local firm, Cumbria PR, to push the message to a much wider audience with even a hint at a "flash mob event in London". Eileen Jones who runs the PR firm wanted to be sure that what she wrote was authentic, so she sent a copy to me to proof-read. All was fine except that she wrote that women were allowed to compete in our wrestling for the first time only ten years ago. I knew this was wrong, but finding out the facts was a struggle and a surprise. Eventually I found an article in my ancient cuttings, written in March 1991 about the Barbara Prudham effect.

"Over the past twelve years there have always been one or two girls at any one time who were willing to compete against the boys in open events.

"Almost invariably the girl wrestlers have brothers who compete, and no doubt have become used to wrestling in the rough and tumble of family life. Barbara Prudham of Carlisle Wrestling Club was forced to go to the Academy when her brothers attended. Before long she was taking part in the practices and holding her own with the good crop of boys who were slightly younger than her. Robert Thomlinson, Simon Robson and William Prudham all went on to win Championships...but first they had to subdue Barbara.

"For two years she held her own, then the lads grew too strong for her. The Carlisle boys were used to wrestling with her as part of the scene. But, she terrified the lads from other academies before she even entered the ring. This embarrassment factor was the reason for the issue being raised at the AGM, as some wrestling coaches felt that over the years they had lost some good wrestlers who disappeared from the scene after losing to a girl."



The subsequent ban on mixed wrestling, and the lack of separate female classes, could have been the end of women's wrestling. But there was a push to include women's classes in the wrestling programme and a steady development which has led to women's classes in the Academy Shield, the first Victrix Ludorum trophies awarded last year, and in July, at Ambleside Sports, the first Women's World Championship, Cumberland and Westmorland style.

May 19th 2016

2016 ACADEMY SHIELD RESULTS

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday May 21st - 1.30pm - Sedbergh Gala U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs

Saturday May 28th Northern District YFC Field Day

Monday May 30th - 1.30pm - Northumberland Show U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18 yrs Championship / 12st / 13½st / AW / Ladies 10st / AW

Thursday June 2nd - Killington Sports U15 yrs and 8st Championship

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

Leasgill Athenaeum sounds like a studious quiet sort of place, but last week it hosted the intense action of the Academy Shield. About fifty wrestlers representing all five of the Wrestling Association Academies in the North of England provided a feast of action and the closest of finishes.



Thirteen sections from 6st, 7st up to 15st and All Weights for males and two female weights are wrestled on a round-robin basis and every fall counts and is added to the accumulating total for each academy. After five sections Waberthwaite was six falls clear of their nearest rival, Carlisle, thanks to the Connor brothers, Jay and Dylan.. Then in the middle section Carlisle surged with full scores from Abi Marston, David Miller and John Harrington. With four sections to wrestle Carlisle led Kendal by 26 points to 21.



From that point onwards Kendal Academy in the form of Graeme Brocklebank, Vicky Beattie and Thomas Brocklebank lost only a single point and the Academy Shield Match proved a draw with both Carlisle and Kendal on 36 points. Carlisle Wrestling Club's performance from a full team of thirteen was remarkable as its wrestlers were often wrestling well above their best weight category, but that accomplishment was redressed by the huge success of the Kendal engine room in the weights from 12 stones onwards. The three Brocklebank brothers, Ben, Graeme and Thomas added seventeen points to the Kendal total. Another great success for Kendal was Thomas Hayhurst wrestling in the 9 stones. His focused intensity in a difficult group, especially against Waberthwaite's Michael Kirkham, gained him the prestigious best performance trophy on a night of fine wrestling.



The following wrestlers were unbeaten in their category: for Wabberthwaite, Jay Connor (7st) and Dylan Connor (10st); for Kendal, Tom Hayhurst (9st), Graham Brocklebank (14st), Vikki Beattie (Ladies AW) and Thomas Brocklebank (AW); and for Carlisle, Matty Hodgson (6st), Abi Marston (Ladies 10st), David Miller (11st), and John Harrington (13st). Both Harry Bertram and Jack Hale wrestling in two categories each contributed five points to the far-travelled Rothbury team. Stuart Mason wrestling in two categories for the host team, Milnthorpe also contributed five points to their total.

There was little time left after the main event, but two open competitions were on offer, Boys and Men. They were interesting in that both were won by Rothbury wrestlers, and one of the Carlisle coaches, Andrew Carlile, who had been a spectator all night, showed the crowd, including his father, the highest level of subtle skills.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Academy Shield 2015 - 2016

First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
CARLISLE & KENDAL (36 pts)		ROTHBURY (22 pts)	WABERTHWAITE (21pts)	MILNTHORPE (13pts)
Best Wrestler TrophyTom Hayhurst (Kendal)				

OPEN COMPETITIONS

Event	First	Second	Third
BOY'S	Z Singleton	M Wharton	J Dickinson
MEN'S	Jack Hale	A Carlile	Joe Hale

May 26th 2016

SEDBURGH GALA

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday May 28th Northern District YFC Field Day

Monday May 30th - 1.30pm - Northumberland Show U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / **U18 yrs Championship** / 12st / 13½st / AW / Ladies 10st / AW

Thursday June 2nd - Killington Sports U15 yrs and 8st Championship

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

In Cumbria and Northumberland, Young Farmers Clubs and Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling are mutually beneficial. Last week, though, the Cumbrian YFC Southern District Field decimated entries at Sedbergh Gala, but there were a couple of car loads from Carlisle, a few wrestlers from Kendal and Milnthorpe academies, and the Hodgson/Brocklebank/Stainton extended family (from toddler to veteran; from midget-weight to substantial), so there was plenty of action.

For much of the event there was competition but no noise, as announcer Peter Hayhurst, for the second week in a row, found himself competing unaided against the ambient noise. Luckily the big chest that knocked you over fifty years ago was a big enough sound-box to keep the wrestlers and crowd informed.



Between Ellie-Ann Stainton felling John-Lucas Stainton in the Under 9s and Thomas Brocklebank, that well-known man-mountain, felling his brother Graham in the final of the All Weights, there was plenty to savour as the crowd accumulated.

The sole Milnthorpe wrestler, Alfie Bradshaw, and Carlisle's Ryan Armstrong had a well-matched tussle, with Ryan winning the Under 15s final with a twist over the knee and a back-heel, but Alfie striking back in the Under 18s semi-final.

The winner of the Under 18s, Thomas Hayhurst, is a class-act these days, though still weighing in below nine stones. Having won the boys' class, Tom surprised the crowd, Ben Brocklebank and himself, by taking the first fall in the 13 stones final. With power, control and care re-established, Ben Brocklebank took the next two falls with his trade-mark hip throws.





As the All Weights wrestling started, the microphone started working just in time for the commentator to implore Thomas Brocklebank to take good care of his adversary and uncle, Trevor Hodgson: "Handle the antique carefully," says he. In the other semi-final Graham Brocklebank felled his brother, Ben, with a back-heel and a victory-roll, but in the final he had no answer to big brother Thomas's power and purpose.

Killington Sports next week is always tricky to access with some of the narrowest roads known to man, but it is even worse this year thanks to Storm Desmond which has left a local bridge in danger of "imminent collapse". Diversions to the Sports Field will be posted but extra time will be needed to get there in time for the Under 15 Years/8st Championship.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Sedburgh Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	E-A Stainton	J-L Stainton	
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	E-A Stainton
Under15 Years	R Armstrong	A Bradshaw	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	
Girls Under 17 Years	T Hayhurst	A Bradshaw	R Armstrong
13 Stone	B Brocklebank	T Hayhurst	J Fryer
All weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank

June 2nd 2016

WILSON RETAINS THE UNDER 18 YEARS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 11th June - 3.45 - Cumberland Show U10yrs / U12yrs / **U15yrs Ch'ship** / Girls U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies AW / 12st / 14st / AW

Saturday 11th June - 12 Noon - Roman Wall Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11¹/₂st / 13¹/₂st / AW / Ladies Open

Saturday 11th June - 6pm - Lowgill U7yrs / U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs

Saturday 18th June - Quernmore

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling provided two rings of good entries and action, and attentive crowds at two very different venues: the Cumbria Young Farmers Northern District Field Day under a skyline of nuclear industry towers and chimneys beside Calder Hall in West

Cumbria; and the conventional big agricultural event, the Northumberland Show near Corbridge.



The Northumberland Show is a big wrestling event at the beginning of the Grass Season with a wide range of categories including the Under 18 Years World Championship. Eighteen wrestlers entered for the event, including the holder, George Wilson from Kendal. His two main challengers were Thomas Gibson of Southwaite and Joe Hale of Rothbury. Gibson managed to move the big lad around and twist him over the knee to take the middle fall, but for the decider Wilson kept control and countered Gibson's back-heel with a decisive twist.

In the final Wilson met Joe Hale who tried to hank but was thrown down fast. Then Hale tried to buttock but that was smothered and Wilson twisted to win...and allowed himself to smile.

In the men's events the Brocklebank family continued its fine start to the season with Ben Brocklebank winning the 12 stones in a final against



Andrew Carlile, and Thomas Brocklebank taking the All Weights by felling David Barnes. The two brothers are in great, confident form...and so is the middle brother, Graham, but he had to contend with another wrestler on top of his game in the form of Richard Fox. The two rivals met in the semi-final of the 13½ stones where Fox triumphed with back-heels rather than buttocks.

Fox's final opponent, John Harrington has been on good form already this season and that continued when Fox's bold attempt at a swinging inside-click misfired in the first bout. Fox took much greater care in the next hold winning with a back heel and good chest-work, and then went on to take the deciding fall.

The excellent women's wrestling was a matter of triumph and disaster: double success for Lucy Singer who buttocked her way to win both the 10 stones and open categories; but catastrophe for Abi Marston who hit the ground badly and was taken by ambulance to the RVI, Newcastle. The good news is that her injuries are limited to soft tissue damage of the shoulder, and we can only hope that she makes a swift recovery and that her GCSE exams are unaffected.



The Young Farmers wrestling at Seascale had a familiar pattern. All the clubs had made good, prolonged efforts to bring out competitive wrestlers in the pursuit of points, and every wrestler was strong and driven. But, the precise edge of skill and long-term pursuit of the sport provided by the Academies was apparent when the dust settled and all the winners turned out to be regular wrestlers: four from Carlisle Wrestling Club and one from Waberthwaite Academy.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

North Cumbria YFC Field Day - Seascale

Event	First	Second	Third
9½ Stone	D Harrison,	H Hunter	H Bendall
11½ Stone	K Miller.	E Benn	R Beard
11½ Stone +	J Thompson	J Lightfoot	P Potts
Women's 10 Stone	G Coulthard	A Marston	K Armstrong
Women's 10 Stone +	S Woodend	L Elliott	D Gibson

Northumberland Show - Corbridge

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger	R McKie	S Nichol
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	C Wharton	B Carter
Under 15 Years	O Vaselau	N Marsden	R Bullock
Under 18 Years World Championship	G Wilson	Joe Hale	J Brown
Ladies 10 Stone	L Singer	A Marston	G Coulthard
12 Stone	B Brocklebank	A Carlile	D Miller
13½ Stone	R Fox	J Harrington	G Brocklebank
Ladies Open	L Singer	G Coulthard	L Elliott
All weights	T Brocklebank	D Barnes	J Harrington

June 9th 2016

JAY FERGUSON (SEDBURGH) WINS THE UNDER 15 YEARS / 8 STONE CHAMPIONSHIP

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 11th June - 3.45 - Cumberland Show U10yrs / U12yrs / **U15yrs Ch'ship** / Girls U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies AW / 12st / 14st / AW

Saturday 11th June - 12 Noon - Roman Wall Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11½st / 13½st / AW / Ladies Open

Saturday 11th June - 6pm - Lowgill U7yrs / U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs

Saturday 18th June - Quernmore

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



Killington Sports is always a scenic experience, but a flood-damaged bridge and a far flung diversion lifted tourism to new levels even before paying your £4 at the gate. The more it is hidden away, the more competitors it seems to attract for the running (tyre, three-legged, potato, fell, track races), pillow-fight, wrestling and the inevitable egg-throwing.

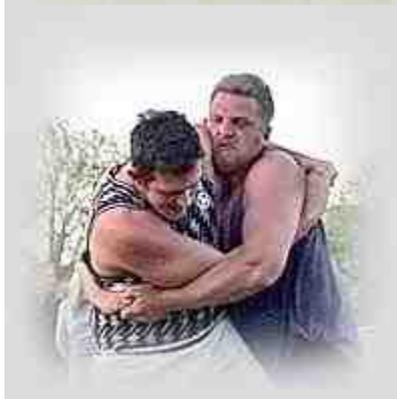
The wrestling dynasties from Kendal, Carlisle and Northumberland were all there, and between them they won every single event...bar one, the Under 15 Years 8st Championship. Wrestlers from the academies at Kendal, Milnthorpe, Carlisle and far-travelled Rothbury, all had representatives in the draw, but on this occasion, a non-academy wrestler came out on top. Jay Ferguson of Sedbergh, obviously, has wrestled before, but it was chiefly his ability to stay on his feet and good strong twisting which gained him the title.

He felled regular wrestler, Robbie Bullock from Rothbury unexpectedly well in the second round, and eventually faced up to one of the smallest wrestlers in the draw when he took on John Gibson in the final. Although the size and strength differences were clear, John Gibson fought so hard and cleverly that he gained one of the falls, and made all the others highly competitive.



The Wilson family started the winning early when Elizabeth won the Under 9s from an impressive entry. Her very big brother, George, fresh from retaining his Under 18 title in Northumberland then did the double, winning at Under 18 and Under 21. Connor Wharton polished his family's reputation nicely when he felled a strong local lad, Will Bains, in the final of the Under 12s.

My granddaughter, Gemma Coulthard, had been worrying about meeting Lucy Singer, the Rothbury wrestler who won twice at the Northumberland County Show recently, but found the way cleared for her by Anna Hindmarsh who felled Singer in the semi-final. Hindmarsh then took the first fall in the final before Gemma got control of the situation.



Then the Hodgson/Brocklebank family took over the rest of the winning with Ben Brocklebank and his hip throw dominating at 13 stones, the two Hodgson sisters, Hannah and Connie contesting the Ladies Open final, and Thomas Brocklebank continuing his impeccable start to the season when he felled Carlisle's Jack Ewart in the last two bouts of a long night of wrestling.

Of course, not all satisfying wrestling feats lead to the winners' enclosure, so let us applaud Jack Ewart for keenness rewarded with a runner-up spot, Thomas Hayhurst who gained three prizes by his skilled persistence, and for me, the performance of the night when my grandson, Josh Fothergill, on holiday from Warwick, wrestled seriously for the first time, didn't listen to a word I said, and kept winning in the Under 9s until Elizabeth Wilson felled him in the final

June 16th 2016

HAT TRICKS FOR ROSIE AND CONNIE HODGSON

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 18th June - Quernmore - U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 13st / AW

Saturday 25th June - 12.30 Stanegate Festival (Newbrough) U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 12st / 13½st / AW

Saturday 25th June - Alston Gala

Sunday 26th June - Ullswater Country Fair, Patterdale

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



Not many wrestlers will have won three events in three counties in one day, but that is what sisters Rosie and Connie Hodgson did last Saturday: at lunchtime they were in action at the Roman Wall Show; tea-time was the Cumberland Show at Carlisle Racecourse, and supper was at Lowgill Sports at "the loneliest village in Lancashire". The Brocklebank brothers, Graham and Thomas might have done the same but were so laden with silverware by the end of the Cumberland Show that it slowed them down.



A bus-load (literally) of Northumbrians carried Rothbury wrestlers to the Roman Wall and Carlisle so there were excellent entries throughout. One special event was the Under 15 Years World Championship held at the Racecourse.



Last year Mark Wharton won the Under 15 Years/8st Championship and this year, having moved up in weight, he gained the open weight title. None of his opponents could stop his hips. Sometimes they delayed the inevitable, but Wharton carefully loaded his opponents, waited till they were just in the right position and launched them up high before bringing them down onto their backs.

The Brocklebank family are in full flow this season. Ben was missing on Saturday, but the other two brothers both had double wins. Thomas Brocklebank seems on the form of his life in the All Weights, and Graham wrestled so well throughout against good opposition that Bob McGregor had no hesitation in awarding him the Guinness Trophy for the best performance in the three hours of action at the Cumberland Show.

Amongst the boys, William Hindmarsh, had a grand day, winning the Under 12s at two venues. Sam Wilson had a double win at Lowgill. Eleven other wrestlers had a single win to be proud of. And even then there was more to applaud in wrestlers who competed with skill and panache without gaining a top prize. Max Bates had some of the best falls of the day at the Cumberland Show; Cade Whitfield found himself in the final of the 14 stones; Adrian Myers is more and more competitive; John Harrington takes falls from wrestlers of all sizes and abilities; Andrew Ord, all the way from Thirsk, reached two All Weights finals; and at Lowgill, Roger Charnley was persuaded to come out of retirement after watching his three children compete, and was beaten in the final of the All Weights

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Roman Wall Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Hodgson	W Fellows	R McKay
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	M Hodgson	M Bates
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	T Hodgson	R Bulloch
Under 18 Years	Joe Hale	C Whitfield	J Brown
Girls Under 17 Years	A Bates	J Harrison	E Davidson
11½ Stones	A Carlile	J Brown	Joe Hale
13½ Stones	G Brocklebank	J Brown	C Ridley
Ladies Open	C Hodgson,	E Davidson	J Harrison
All Weights	T Brocklebank	A Ord	T Gibson.

Cumberland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Hodgson	A Younger	Z Graves
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	M Bates	H Wales
Under 15 Years World Championship	<u>M Wharton</u>	T Hodgson	R Bulloch
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	E Davidson	A Hindmarsh
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	A Hindmarsh	V Beaty
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Gibson	Joe Hale
12 Stones	J Brown	J Harrington	D Miller
14 Stones	G Brocklebank,	C Whitfield	J Harrington
All Weights	T Brocklebank	A Ord	G Brocklebank
Guinness Trophy	G Brocklebank		

Lowgill Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 7 Years	J-L Stainton	E Charnley	
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	R Woodhouse	T Charnley
Under 16 Years	T Hayhurst	T Gardner	J Charnley
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson
Girls Under 17 Years	R Hodgson	R Woodhouse	D Preece
13 Stones	S Wilson	T Hayhurst	J Gardner
Ladies Open	R Hodgson	R Woodhouse	D Preece
All Weights	A Taylor	R Charnley	O Hodgson

June 23rd 2016

YOUNGSTERS SHOW THEIR PACES AT QUERNMORE SPORTS

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 25th June - 12.30 Stanegate Festival (Newbrough) U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 12st / 13½st / AW

Saturday 25th June - Alston Gala - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11½st / 13st / AW / Girls U17 / Ladies Open

Sunday 26th June - 3 pm Ullswater Country Fair, Patterdale - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Sat July 2nd - 1.30 Skelton Show U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sun July 3rd - 1pm West Cumbria Vint. Rally, Distington U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 12½st / AW

Sun July 3rd - 2pm Langdale Gala U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18 yrs / Girls U18yrs / Ladies Open / 11st / 13st / AW

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

The Brocklebank brothers are willing to travel widely to wrestle these days, winning at big events in Northumberland and North Cumbria, but this week Graham and Ben just had a toddle down the road to Quernmore Sports.



Although one of the smaller events on the calendar, Quernmore nicely serves its purpose as an extended school activity. Large entries of youngsters compete in the Fell races with three categories for Junior school children, and twenty wrestlers entered for the Under 12 Years wrestling.

The newly developing confidence of female wrestlers was well shown when Elizabeth Wilson won the Under 9s and no fewer than three tall local girls took all the prize-money in the Under 12s.



Three wrestling families shared the spoils: Elizabeth's big brother George Wilson, the Under 18 Champion, won his age group with big swings of the local lads; Ben Brocklebank did much the same in the 13 stones and Graham in the All Weights; and for the Hodgson family, Ted won the Under 15s and Rosie won the Ladies event.



Three Hodgson sisters, Tracy, Connie and Rosie travelled down to London recently with photographer Steve Ashworth, to create publicity for Ambleside Sports and the inauguration of the Ladies All Weights Championship.



With support from Virgin Trains which was keen to support the idea that Cumbria was still open for business despite Storm Desmond, they were first photographed at Oxenhome Station at the outset of their journey and alongside the Pendolino train appropriately named "The Cumbrian Spirit". The wrestling "flash-mob" then transferred to London for some startling images with Big Ben, Marble Arch and Buckingham Palace providing the background.

Meanwhile back North, a busy week-end is in prospect with co-ordinated events when wrestlers can first compete at Newbrough, near Hexham, and afterwards at Alston Gala. Then on the Sunday wrestling moves to Patterdale for the Ullswater Country Fair amongst the high mountains of the Lakes... a long way from London.

Quernmore Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	E Wilson	N Giles	T Ashworth
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	L Longworth	D Preece
Under 15 Years	T Hodgson	J Charnley	H Carter
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	J Whittaker	H Carter
Ladies	R Hodgson	H Carter	D Preece
13 Stones	B Brocklebank	T Whittaker	T Hodgson
All Weights	G Brocklebank	G Wilson	B Brocklebank

June 30th 2016

" WHEN I WERE A LAD"

NEWS UPDATES

Sat July 2nd - 1.30 Skelton Show U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sun July 3rd - 1pm West Cumbria Vint. Rally, Distington U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 12½st / AW

Sun July 3rd - 2pm Langdale Gala U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18 yrs / Girls U18yrs / Ladies Open / 11st / 13st / AW

Sunday July 10th Haltwhistle - 13st Championship

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



Once upon a time, long ago, when I was a lad, most events only had three or four categories of wrestling: Light, Middle and All Weights and maybe a Novices thrown in. Even the biggest event, Grasmere Sports, only had six sections. Last weekend at Newbrough, Alston and Patterdale, no fewer than twenty-four classes were on offer. Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling caters for a wide variety of ages, weights and gender as never before.

The response by Rothbury Wrestling Club was to hire the Community Bus, supplemented by a fleet of cars, to bring a large group of young wrestlers to compete in the week-end's soggy weather. Two of their wrestlers, Aaron Younger and Joe Hale had double wins, and Emily Davidson won three times. For Carlisle Thomas Gibson did well with two wins, but best by far was Jack Brown, a Northumbrian who learned his craft on the mats at Carlisle Wrestling Club. He won five categories, and could have won more if work had not taken him away from Alston Gala.





Rain made life uncomfortable for wrestlers and spectators at all three events, but most wrestling was completed in the gaps between the downpours.

At this point in the season, patterns emerge, and it was good to see some highly competitive wrestling from a group of young wrestlers. William Hindmarsh from high up the Coquet Valley and Connor Wharton from Thursby had a series of bouts at all three venues with Hindmarsh winning at Newbrough and Wharton at Patterdale. Add in Matty Hodgson and John Gibson of Hesket and you get a series of skilled, determined bouts with no obvious winner.

Jack Brown hiping his way to five wins was obviously the stand-out wrestler of the week, but he was not unbeatable. Joe Hale took a good fall from him at Newbrough, and at Patterdale Andrew Carlile managed to jump ahead of the hipe and twist for the first fall of the 12½ stons final. In the All Weights final Carlile again took the first fall, this time with a spin and an outside-stroke. To Andrew Carlile's credit, he was able to nullify Jack Brown's deadly hiping skills: to Jack Brown's credit he is able to win in tough wrestles by other means. My note on his deciding fall of the 12½ st final was "cross-click after much surviving"....which should be a lesson to us all.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Newbrough

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger,	R McKay	S Nichol
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	C Wharton	M Bates
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	R Bulloch	J Mason
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	Z Singleton	C Whitfield
Girls Under 17 Years	E Davidson	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
12 Stones	J Brown	Joe Hale	J Clutten
13½ Stones	J Brown	C Whitfield	Joe Hale
Ladies	A Bates	A Hindmarsh	E Davidson
All Weights	J Brown	T Gibson	Joe Hale

Alston Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger,	Rachael McKay	Rebecca McKay
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	M Bates
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	T Davidson	R Bulloch
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	Joe Hale	T Gibson
Girls Under 17 Years	E Davidson	A Bates	R McKay
Ladies	E Davidson	A Hindmarsh	A Bates

Event	First	Second	Third
11½ Stones	C Whitfield	M Wharton;	T Davidson
13½ Stones	Joe Hale	C Whitfield	A Myers
All Weights	Joe Hale	T Gibson	A Myers

Patterdale Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	J Gibson	M Hodgson	C Wharton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson,	J Gibson	C Wharton.
Ladies	G Coulthard	M Towers	
12½ Stones	J Brown	A Carlile	A Myers
All Weights	J Brown	A Carlile	T Gibson

July 7th 2016

JOHN HARRINGTON HAS A GOOD WEEKEND

NEWS UPDATES

Sunday July 10th Haltwhistle - 2pm (25th Aniv).

U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / Novice / 11½ st/ **13 Stone World Championship** / All Weights.

Sun July 17th - Great Ecclestone Show

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



John Harrington of Bewaldeth was a major player and winner in the wrestling last week-end. He took a while to get up to full speed at Skelton Show with a third in the 11½ stones and a second in the 13 stones. But by the time he reached the All Weights his clever measured style of hipes



and twists was

in full flow, culminating in the final against Kieran Miller.



Miller took the middle bout with one of the best hipes of the day, but John Harrington won through withtwists over the knee.

On the following day at Distington, at the West Cumbria Vintage Rally, he was in a class of his own, felling Waberthwaite Academy wrestlers to win both senior classes of wrestling.

Thomas Gibson of Southwaite also had wins at both of those venues, cutting the immensely tall Northumbrian, Zak Singleton, down to size in the Under 18s final at Skelton, and Harry Wilson at Distington.

Another wrestler who had wins at two different events was Gemma Coulthard who felled clever Northumbrian girls, Alice Bates and Anna Hindmarsh, in finals at Skelton and Langdale. Only in the Open Ladies event at Langdale did she have her hands, and arms, too full with Vicky Beaty, to carry on her winning streak.



Thomas Hayhurst is wrestling keenly this season. Aged fifteen and a lightweight, he has an uphill struggle against bigger and older lads, but his determined, active style shook up the wrestling at Skelton without gaining him much prize-money. At Langdale it was a different matter and he took full advantage for a double win.

The wrestling at Skelton was greatly enhanced by a car-load of young Rothbury wrestlers brought through by their coach, Jason Davidson. And even at Langdale, buried in the Central Lakeland, there was a Northumbrian presence when the Hindmarsh family made the long trek from Upper Coquetdale. For William Hindmarsh especially, the journey was worthwhile for he won the Under 12 Years and came second in the Under 15s.

Haltwhistle claims to be "The Centre of Britain".

On Sunday it will be the centre of the world of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling when Richard Fox's 13 stones title is up for grabs.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Skelton

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 13 Years	J Harrison	C Wharton	J Gibson
Girls Under 12 Years	1, M Harrison	A Hunter	
Under 16 Years	Z Singleton	R Armstrong	T Hayhurst
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	Z Singleton	M Wharton
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Bates	
12½ Stones	A Carlile	D Miller	J Harrington
13 Stones	R Fox	J Harrington	A Carlile
All Weights	J Harrington	K Miller	T Gibson

Distington

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	H Hufton	J Hewer
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	H Wilson	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	H Wilson	J Wilson
12½ Stones	J Harrington	J Wilson	P Murray
All Weights	J Harrington	T Wren	T Gibson

Langdale Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	C Capstick	R Hodgson
Under 15 Years	A Beston	W Hindmarsh	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson	J Harrison
Girls Under 18 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	I Kelly.
11 Stones	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson	T Benson
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	A Myers	T Hayhurst
Ladies	V Beaty	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	A Myers

July 14th 2016

HALTWHISTLE GALA

NEWS UPDATES

Sunday July 17th - Great Eccleston U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies Open / 13st / AW.

Saturday July 23rd - 1.15 - Penrith Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / **15st World Championship / AW.**

Sunday July 24th - 2.45 - Coniston U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW.

Thursday July 28th - 12pm - Ambleside Female wrestling: U15yrs / 10½st / **Ladies AW Championship; Boys U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 8st; Men 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW.**

Friday July 29th - Langholm Common Riding

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



As the Brocklebank brothers, beefburgers in hand, wandered past the deserted wrestling ring at Haltwhistle Gala with Graham's girlfriend, a spaniel on a lead, and armfuls and a carrier bag full of trophies, you knew they were enjoying the moment. When the ring was alive with action and an attentive crowd, Graham had won the 13 stones World Championship, and the three brothers had monopolised the All Weights prize-money.



Haltwhistle Gala, celebrating its 25th Anniversary, is one of the few wrestling events where you expect to have circus clowns and a giggling gang of nuns round the ring, and in it. The fairground rides terrify me, and I am only walking past licking an ice-cream. The whole population of Haltwhistle seems to go daft for the day.

The local wrestlers, some still in make-up and fancy-dress, make it one of the best Novice wrestling of the year as they compete for the trophy given in memory of local lad, Chris Walton.



The entry for the Championship was disappointing, but the quali



ty was there. Inevitably last year's champion, Richard Fox met his main rival, Graham Brocklebank, in the final, and an intense struggle ensued. Brocklebank knows how to subdue Fox's main weapon, the full-buttock, so the action strays into unfamiliar territory, where the wrestlers make it up as they go along. Fox took the first fall as they landed head-first. Brocklebank sparked back with an inside-click to finish off the second fall. And, only in the third fall did Brocklebank revert to the wrench-buttock of the right hip, a family speciality from three generations.

In the All Weights Thomas Brocklebank took over, as he has done all season, and felled third brother, Ben, in the final.



Earlier wrestling saw Carlisle wrestlers sweeping the board. Connor Wharton felled Aaron Younger in the final of the Under 12s; his big brother Mark then gave him his own fairground ride in the Under 15 final; and then Thomas Gibson hiped Mark in turn for the Under 18s. Added to this John Harrington came out top in an 11½st event which was laden with skill.

The Rothbury wrestlers were there in numbers and added greatly to the entertainment without taking much prize-money home. The notable exception was Emily Davidson, Jason's daughter, who won both female classes with increasing confidence. In some ways the best bit of all the wrestling was the Ladies Open final, for in the ring again and going well was Abi Marston, returning to the ring after injury.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Haltwhistle Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	A Younger	J Wharton
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	C Wharton	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	M Wharton	J Gibson
Girls Under 18 Years	E Davidson	A Bates	
Ladies All Weights	E Davidson	A Marston	A Bates
Novices	O Shield	Z Singleton	J Rogan
11½ Stone	J Harrington	D Miller	A Carlile.
13 Stone World Championship	G Brocklebank	R Fox	B Brocklebank
All Weights	T Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	G Brocklebank

July 21st 2016

GREAT ECCLESTON BIG DIPPER

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday July 23rd - 1.15 - Penrith Show - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / **15st World Championship** / AW.

Sunday July 24th - 2.45 - Coniston - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW.

Thursday July 28th - 12pm - Ambleside Female wrestling: U15yrs / 10½st / **Ladies AW Championship**; Boys U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 8st; Men 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW.

Friday July 29th - Langholm Common Riding - U12yrs / U16yrs / Ladies / 6st / 11½st / 13st / AW

Saturday July 30th - Beetham U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / **U18yrs & 10st World Championship** / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW

Saturday July 30th - 1.00 - Cockermouth Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

[CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016](#)

The wrestling at Great Eccleston Show, near Blackpool, had its own Big Dipper ride of highs and dizzying lows: the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling.



The original infrastructure for the event was as high as it could be with David Parsons in charge: good prize-money and potentially more; a fine silver trophy for the Best Wrestler; a slot in the Main Ring right in front of the Grandstand ; Nora Hayhurst with pen, paper and tickets, supported by Gillian Gibson, CWWA Secretary, to organise the table with practised efficiency; and experienced judges at hand. But, where were the wrestlers; only two had been seen. Was all the preparation going to fizzle into nothing?

Then, the miracle happened: a microphone request for entries brought crowds of children of all sizes and both genders, plus parents, into the middle of the ring. The area round the table became a scrum of activity: a cross between a queue and a wrestling academy as the referee, David Parsons, Max Carlisle's daughter, Diane, and I, coached the basics of the sport while the table struggled to deal with the mass entry of unknown names.

Then, Peter Hayhurst was furnished with a microphone and the action started, once the referee had been able to sort out the grip, heads and stance of each pair of combatants in the Under 9 Years category. The crowded Grandstand nearby was oohing, aahing, laughing and applauding in the right places. All was going so well, and the first final was about to take place.

But, then, into the ring came a battalion of motor-cycles, the Imps, impatient to get started with their demonstration. Nothing could stand up to the revved engines and potential safety issues, so the wrestling had to up-sticks and carry the table and chairs through the ringside crowds to an impromptu wrestling ring in the space in front of the JCB Stand, and start all over again.

With the onlookers sitting on JCB buckets and grabs the action started again, though without the help of a loudspeaker. Ironically, Peter Hayhurst had to shout against the noise of the Main Ring microphone which he had just had to relinquish.



So, what about the actual wrestling? Natural talent shone through: Sophie Foster, with a low centre of gravity and great resilience, punched well above her weight; James Phoenix did well to fell John Gibson, a real wrestler from Carlisle, but much lighter; Holly Clark was athletic and wrestled well but was unable to finish off many of the bouts with killer instinct.

And of course, the two trained wrestlers John Gibson and Tom Hayhurst, were in a class of their own, though pushed hard by strong and fit local

lads. When the time came to present the big silver cup, The Bill Threlfall Memorial Trophy, for the best wrestler, there was no doubt about the recipient: Tom Hayhurst, who has been wrestling so well and so frequently this season.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Great Ecclestone Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	S Foster	H Clark	C Evans
Under 12 Years	A Gaynor-Smith	W Wallbank	J Jackson
Under 15 Years	J Phoenix	J Gibson	J Gaynor-Smith
Under 18 Years	T Hayhurst	J Phoenix	L Walker
Ladies	H Clark	D Carlisle	S Foster
13 Stone	T Hayhurst	J Gibson	J Phoenix
All Weights	T Hayhurst	J Phoenix	J Gibson
Best Performance	Tom Hayhurst		

July 28th 2016

PENRITH SHOW AND CONISTON COUNTRY FAIR

NEWS UPDATES

Friday July 29th - Langholm Common Riding - U12yrs / U16yrs / Ladies / 6st / 11½st / 13st / AW

Saturday July 30th - Beetham U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / **U18yrs & 10st World Championship** / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW

Saturday July 30th - 1.00 - Cockermonth Show U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Wednesday August 3rd - Cartmel Show

Thursday August 4th - 2pm - Ings U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs / Ladies

Saturday August 6th - Powburn

Saturday August 6th - 1.30 Garstang U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs / Ladies

Sunday August 7th - 12.30 Gilsland Show U12yrs / 15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13½st / AW

Sunday August 7th - 3.30 - Nenthead U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Tuesday August 9th - Lunesdale Show, Kirkby Lonsdale

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

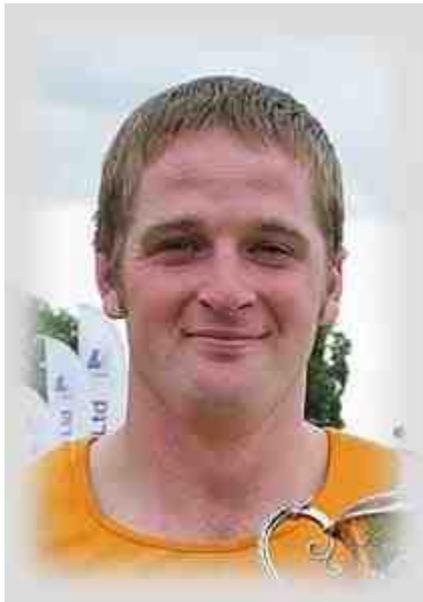
Wrestlers from Lancashire, Cumbria, Northumberland and Scotland converged on Penrith Show. The main draw was the 15 stones World Championship, but all classes had good entries, and the big crowd was well entertained for two and a half hours.



Graham Brocklebank from Warton arrived with the 15st trophy in hand and took it home again straight after. Right in the first round he met one of his major rivals, Richard Fox. The first hold ended in a dog-fall, but Brocklebank was in full control thereafter, twisting for the first and cross-buttocking for the second. In the next round he met Frazer Hirsch of Carnoustie, the main organiser in Scotland these days, and still a

redoubtable wrestler, which he proved by taking the first fall with a quick cross-buttock. Brocklebank equalised with a strong hipe, and that proved to be enough, for Hirsch sustained a rib injury. He tried to tough it out, but had to concede the third fall.

Brocklebank could then take a rest at the semi-final stage, and watch whom he would meet in the final. His brother Ben failed, though, to make it a family do, for he went down to David Barnes' hipe and finishing touch: one of the falls of the day.



In the final, Brocklebank got Barnes up in the air, seized the hold he wanted, and then twisted him to the ground. Barnes' strategy in the next hold was to go straight for the hank which has been so successful for him in the past, but this time Brocklebank was on the alert, and threw it out before it could work. And so Graham Brocklebank is still the 13, 14 and 15st Champion. Just to rub it in, he also won the 13 stones and wrestled up to his brother Thomas in the All Weights.

Jack Brown was on good form after further recovery from a car crash. The Wharton Brothers, Connor and Mark had good wins in the lads wrestling, and Robbie Bulloch wrestled as well as I have seen to win a rare 8st event. Connie Hodgson was on grand form days before the inaugural Ladies All Weights Championship, and Scottish lightweight, and Ryan Ferry, was fascinating watch as he mesmerised some much bigger wrestlers.

Coniston Country Fair looked like a poor turn out until Jason Davidson turned up with half a dozen wrestlers in tow, then the Hodgsons arrived, then the Brocklebanks. The winner of lightweights ,Will Jardine, was a local from Broughton – only his second time in the ring, but his opponents were boys after Ben Brocklebank was weighed out.

A TV crew for the Coast to Coast programme filmed, with Tony Robinson. We got him to present prizes and he certainly knows how to put humour into proceedings. He should have recovered by now after being lifted off his feet and swung round by Thomas Brocklebank in the All Weights presentation, immediately followed by Graham doing the same. When he saw the third prize-winner approaching, tall, muscled, bearded Adrian Myers... he fled.

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Penrith Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	V Davidson	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	T Hodgson	R Bulloch
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	C Whitfield	Z Singleton
Girls Under 15 Years	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson	
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	L Elliott	L Murray
8 Stone	R Bulloch	J Gibson	M Hodgson
11½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	S Wilson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	R Ferry	B Brocklebank
15 Stone World Championship	G Brocklebank	D Barnes	B Brocklebank
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	R Fox

Coniston Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	Rosie Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	M Stainton
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	T Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	T Davidson	Z Singleton
Ladies	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	A Marston
11½ Stone	W Jardine	T Davidson	J Gibson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	A Myers
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	A Myers

August 4th 2016

FOUR EVENTS; 2 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 3 DAYS, AND SOME HIGH CLASS WRESTLING!

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday August 6th - Powburn

Saturday August 6th - 1.30 Garstang U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / 13st / AW / Girls U17yrs / Ladies

Sunday August 7th - 12.30 Gilsland Show U12yrs / 15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13½st / AW

Sunday August 7th - NENTHEAD IS CANCELLED

Tuesday August 9th - Lunesdale Show, Kirkby Lonsdale - U9yrs / U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 13st /

AW Thursday August 11th - 11am Appleby Show

Saturday August 13th - Dalston Show - 10½st World Championship

Saturday August 13th - Slaley Show

Sunday August 14th - Forestburgate

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



A hectic week of wrestling competition that included two championships, four shows in three days and many high class wrestles, began with frenetic action at Ambleside Sports as the local Lakeland school children competed following coaching by John Wilson. It then stalled as they had disappeared into the mist and rain in the fell race when the boys' wrestling began. Pocket rocket, Max Bates from Rothbury sparked life back into the rather soggy proceedings with sharp wrestling that felled others twice his size. A theme that continued when he won the 6 stones at Langholm Common Riding in the sunshine the next day.



The focus moved on to the ladies at Ambleside. After a week of national media attention on the inaugural Ladies All Weights World Championship the event had a lot to live up to. With 15 entries from experienced and active wrestlers, the strength, speed, skill and

determination shown did just that. The eventual winner, Connie Hodgson from Dent showed all of the above attributes; she had to as she met a series of tough competitors in the early round, dispatching them with inside clicks and clean powerful wrestling. In the semi final she met Donna Thompson, a formidable opponent with multiple Grasmere wins behind her as well as power, weight and skill. Hodgson took the first fall with a



right side buttock by the ears. The second was a longer affair with Thompson stopping the Hodgson attacks until a cross buttock took Hodgson through to the final. Meanwhile, in the other half of the draw, Vicky Beattie was looking sharp and strong, dispatching Katie Brown after an early scare then throwing Connie's sister Hannah forward from an attempted buttock

With supporters shouting encouragement for both wrestlers the final was an intense and close bout with Beattie putting her all into a buttock that Hodgson was able to throw her forward from. One fall up and one fall away from being the first ever ladies champion, Hodgson threw caution to the wind and produced the fall of the day, full buttocking spectacularly to bring Beattie over her back and into the wet Lakeland turf. The same trip she had practised on Country File's presenter Helen Skelton the week before. Hodgson's smile of delight lit up the gloomy afternoon.

In the men's events at Ambleside Andrew Carlile won the lightweights then reached the next two finals with some smart wrestling; then the Brocklebank brothers took over. Before the wrestling began the sad announcement was made that former Under 15 and Under 18 Years, 14 stones and All Weights champion Harry Brocklebank had lost his battle with cancer and had died the previous day. First Ben, then Graham and finally Thomas Brocklebank honoured their father's name with wins in the 12 ½ stones, 14 stones and All Weights respectively, showing their usual power, skill and determination in difficult circumstances.



Harry would certainly have been very proud.

At Langholm, Cockermouth and Beetham the sun made an appearance and the wrestling included the welcome addition of some fit strong local wrestlers who brightened up proceedings, with vocal support from the crowd. Despite their best efforts, including Saikou Jemmeh, a prop forward who came close to bulldozing his way to the final at Langholm before young Zak Singleton buttocked him, the usual names appeared in the winners' lists. Over the week there were three wins for Richard Fox and Graham Brocklebank in middle and heavyweight divisions and a double win for Jack Brown in the lighter weights at Cockermouth. Gemma Coulthard and Mark Wharton won two apiece and fresh from the mud and glory of her championship win, Connie Hodgson travelled north of the border to Langholm to win again; smile still in place.

Probably the longest journey of the weekend was made by Rothbury academy wrestler, Harry Bertram. He made the long trek south to Beetham just south of Kendal in pursuit of the Under 18 Years/10stones World Championship. If you are going to spend almost three hours in a car you better make it worth your while and he duly did by beating Mark Wharton of Carlisle academy in the final. Both boys are clever wrestlers but Bertram had the edge in strength and his dynamic style saw him to a superb victory. Extra satisfaction must have come from defeating Wharton who had recently taken Bertram's Under 15 Years championship now he is too old. Both boys' names will now be below that of Harry Brocklebank on the Under 15 trophy. The bright future of wrestling next to a gentle giant of its past.

Harry Brocklebank's funeral service will be on 8th August, 10.30a.m. at St John's Church, Yealand.

Ambleside Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Local Primary Schools	J Kelly	L Evans	G Evans
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	C Wharton	R Hodgson
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	J Harrison
8 Stone	J Cansfield	R Bullock	M Hodgson
Under 15 years	M Wharton	R Bullock	T Davidson
Under 18 years	G Wilson	T Gibson	J Hale
Ladies 10½ Stone	A Marston	H Hodgson	G Coulthard
Ladies All Weights World Championship	C Hodgson	V Beattie	H Hodgson
11½ Stone	A Carlile	J Harrington	S Wilson
12½ Stone	B Brocklebank	A Carlile	Joe Hale
14 Stone	G Brocklebank	A Carlile	B Brocklebank
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	G Wilson

Langholm Common Riding

Event	First	Second	Third
6 Stone	M Bates	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	J Jeffries
Under 16 Years	E Robson	Z Singleton	R Tait
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	A Bates	G Coulthard
11½ Stone	J Harrington	W Jemmeh	R Ali
13 Stone	R Fox	R Ali	J Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	Z Singleton	G Wilson

Cockermouth Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	D Dryden	M Hodgson	L Elliott
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	M Hodgson	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	J Wilson	G Wilson
Ladies	G Coulthard	L Elliott	L Murray
11½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	T Evans
13 Stone	J Brown	D Miller	R Fox
All Weights	R Fox	G Wilson	J Brown

Beetham Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	D Christian
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	N Bland	R Hodgson
Under 14 Years	M Wharton	T Hodgson	D Haywood
Under 16 Years	T Hayhurst	H Bertram	M Wharton
Under 18 Years / 10 st World Championship	H Bertram	M Wharton	D Connor
Under 18 Years	M Kirkham	T Hayhurst	D Connor
Girls Under 17 Years	C Strickland	R Hodgson	G Hodgson
Ladies All Weights	T Hodgson	R Hodgson	C Strickland
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	M Kirkham	J Davis-Kimber
All Weights	G Brocklebank	W Hayhurst	S Wilkinson

August 11th 2016

A BUSY WEEK !

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 13th August - Dalston 12.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 10½ st World Championship / 11½st / 13st / AW
Saturday 13th August - Slaley 3.30 - U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / 12st / 14st / AW
Sunday 14th August - Forestburngate 2.00 - U8yrs / U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U21yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 12½st / 15st / AW
Saturday 20th August - Allendale 1.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
Saturday 20th August - Gosforth 2.30 - U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U12yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW
Sunday 21st August - Torver 2.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume
Thursday 25th August - Crosby Ravensworth - 12.45 U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW / Costume
Thursday 25th August - Grayrigg 3.30 - U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

This has been the busiest week of the grass season so far with competitions available in all areas, from Garstang Show in Lancashire to Powburn Show in Northumberland. Inevitably with so many events the entries were variable and the winners numerous. Top of the pile for wins were Graham Brocklebank, Edward Robson and young Matty Hodgson. Brocklebank keeps piling up the wins this season and added to his already considerable tally with wins at Cartmell and Lunesdale Shows, and a double at Garstang. It is good to see wrestling returning there after a number of years.



On Monday he gave a eulogy to his father before a large congregation, gathered at St John`s Church, Yealand to pay their respects to Harry, a Champion in each of four separate decades. The tribute he gave was presented in the same impeccable manner with which he goes about his wrestling.

Edward Robson also achieved a four – timer with a double at Ings, followed up with success at Garstang and Lunesdale. Edward is not a regular wrestler in our rings – simply because he lives in the Burton area in the Midlands. He does have a wrestling pedigree, however, being the son of Simon and grandson of Roger. Keeping it in the family, his brother George and father also appear in the list of winners, and his cousin Gemma Coulthard also played her part with top prizes at Garstang and Gilsland.

Matty Hodgson often finds himself up against boys who are either older or heavier, and sometimes both, so he would be particularly pleased with his week`s achievements. He is a regular attendee at the club in Carlisle and displays the wide variety of trips he has learned under excellent coaching.

Jack Brown was less travelled, due to work commitments, but he still picked up three wins by winning all the senior classes at Powburn, and Richard Fox, in his only appearance for similar reasons, achieved the double at a rather windswept Gilsland.

Tomorrow sees the lightest senior Championship, the ten and a half stones, at Dalston Show and the wrestlers then travel to Slaley Show, a new event with a host of classes to suit all ages and weights.

(Written by Alf Harrington © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Cartmel Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	E Thornton	G Hodgson	T Dennison
Under 12 years	M Hodgson	R Hodgson	M Smith
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	T Hodgson	J Dickinson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	E Robson	G Robson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	T Hodgson
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	G Wilson

Ings

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	M Stainton	O Heathcote-Jones
Under 16 Years	E Robson	J Gibson	J Wharton
Under 18 Years	E Robson	J Gibson	T Hodgson
Ladies	C Hodgson	G Stainton	
13 Stone	T Hodgson	J Gibson	W Hindmarsh
All Weights	S Robson	E Robson	T Hodgson

Garstang Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	B Rogerson
Under 16 Years	E Robson	S Rogerson	A Ralph
Under 18 Years	G Robson	E Robson	A Ralph
Girls Under 17 Years	A Marston	E Carroll	R Hodgson
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Marston	M Grinion
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Dickinson	T Hodgson
All Weights	G Brocklebank	S Robson	C Whittaker

Powburn Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger	O Chisholm	C Brown
Under 13 Years	G Singer	M Bates	A Younger
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	R Bulloch	D Samerelli
Girls Under 17 Years	A Bates	K Ball	
Novice	Z Singleton	D Samerelli	G Singer
11½ Stone	J Brown	R Bulloch	D Samerelli
14 Stone	J Brown	Joe Hale	D Samerelli
All Weights	J Brown	Joe Hale	J Davidson

Gilsland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	M Stainton
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	J Hale	Z Singleton
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	L Elliot	G Coulthard
11½ Stone	J Harrington	R Armstrong	T Hodgson
13½ Stone	R Fox	J Brown	J Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	J Harrington	J Brown

Lunesdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	P Hall	E A Stainton	J L Stainton
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Under 16 Years	E Robson	J Dickinson	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Hodgson	E Robson
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	R Hodgson	E A Stainton
Ladies	C Hodgson	R Hodgson	G Coulthard
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	J Dickinson
All Weights	S Wilkinson	B Brocklebank	T Hodgson

' NEW KID ON THE BLOCK'

NEWS UPDATES

- Saturday 20th August - Allendale 1.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
- Saturday 20th August - Gosforth 2.30 - U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U12yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW
- Sunday 21st August - Torver 2.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume
- Thursday 25th August - Crosby Ravensworth - 12.45 - U13yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 13st / AW / Costume
- Thursday 25th August - Grayrigg 3.30 - U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW
- Saturday 27th August - Newcastleton 12.00 - U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12.5st / AW
- Saturday 27th August - Bellingham 3.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Novice / Ladies 10 st. World Championship / Ladies Open / 7st / 12st / 14st / AW
- Saturday 27th August - Millom 3.00 U12yrs / U16yrs / Local U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / 12st / AW
- Sunday 28th August - Grasmere 11.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Girls U18yrs / Ladies 10st / Ladies AW / 11st World Championship / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW / Costume
- Monday 29th August - Silloth 1.00 - U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW
- Monday 29th August - Black Combe 3.30 - Boys U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U12yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW
- Wednesday 31st August - Ennerdale 2.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



A new name has been etched on the 10½ stones World Championship Trophy – Ryan Ferry of Hamilton. In a close and tense final at Dalston he beat the challenge of the defending Champion, David Miller of Wigton. Ferrey had shown his abilities at Penrith Show in mid July, so he was seen as a serious challenger for this Championship and grabbed the initiative in the first bout by riding the hipec and following in with a back heel. Miller countered with a swinging hipec to level things up.



After a dog fall the young Scotsman grabbed the all important third fall following up a swing by rushing Miller forward as he desperately tried to twist into a buttocking position.

Ferrey then followed up by winning the 11½ stones class in a final with his travelling companion, Greg Neilson. Before setting off back up the road he promised to be at Grasmere, no doubt with his eyes on the 11 stones World Championship.



The Championship had been part of a full programme at Dalston with plenty of action to entertain the large crowd. In the boys, the Wharton brothers, Mark and Connor continued their good form with a win apiece, as they did the following day at Forestburngate. Connor also won the Under 12 class at Slaley Show on Saturday evening for a perfect weekend.

Thomas Gibson gave an assured performance in the Under 18 class and was awarded the Bragg Trophy for the best performance in the junior wrestling, judged by Joe Harrington the Wrestling Association President.



Jack Brown had a spectacular haul of seven wins over the two days. Having started with an excellent All Weights at Dalston, he rushed over to Slaley and won all three weights. The following day he repeated the feat at Forestburngate saving the best till last defeating the All Weights Champion, Robert Leiper in straight falls.

Sadly the weekend was less memorable for Harry Bertram. At Slaley, competing in the 14 stones class, the young champion wrestler from the Rothbury club fell awkwardly and discolated his shoulder, an injury which has brought a sudden end to a promising season. We wish him a speedy recovery.

(Written by Alf Harrington © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Appleby Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 years	M Hodgson	R Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	T Hodgson	J Gibson	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	J Gibson	M Hodgson	T Hodgson
Ladies	C Hodgson	D Thompson	A Hindmarsh
11 Stone	T Hodgson	M Hodgson	J Gibson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	T Hodgson	B Brocklebank
All Weights	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	

Dalston Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	W Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	G Singer
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	Z Singleton	M Kirkham
Ladies	A Marston	G Coulthard	J Harrison.
10½ Stone World Championship	R Ferrey	D Miller	H Bertram
11½ Stone	R Ferrey	G Neilson	J Harrington
13 Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	P Potts
All Weights	J Brown	R Fox	T Gibson

Slaley

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	A Younger	A Wilson	C Thorpe
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	A Younger	W Hindmarsh
Under 14 Years	G Singer	C Wharton	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	Z Singleton	H Bertram	G Singer
Girls Under 15 Years	A Hindmarsh	L Thorpe	
Ladies	A Hindmarsh	C Peart	A Bates
12 Stone	J Brown	H Bertram	C Ridley
14 Stone	J Brown	R Nixon	C Ridley
All Weights	J Brown	C Ridley	Z Singleton

Forestburngate

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	W Wood	F Renwick	W Williams
Under 10 Years	W Fellows	F Renwick	J Renwick
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	M Bates	J Renwick
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	F Simpson	T Davidson

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 21 Years	Joe Hale	C Carlyle	C Whitfield
Girls Under 17 Years	E Davidson	A Bates	T Bertram
Ladies	E Davidson	T Bertram	A Bates
12½ Stone	J Brown	Joe Hale	C Whitfield
15 Stone	J Brown.	C Whitfield	Joe Hale
All Weights	J Brown.	R Leiper	Z Singleton

August 25th 2016

ALLENDALE AND TORVER SHOWS

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 27th August - Newcastleton 12.00 - U13yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12.5st / AW

Saturday 27th August - Bellingham 3.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Novice / **Ladies 10 st. World Championship** / Ladies Open / 7st / 12st / 14st / AW

Saturday 27th August - Millom 3.00 U12yrs / U16yrs / Local U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / 12st / AW

Sunday 28th August - Grasmere 11.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Girls U18yrs / Ladies 10st / Ladies AW / **11st World Championship** / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW / Costume

Monday 29th August - Silloth 1.00 - U10yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW

Monday 29th August - Black Combe 3.30 - Boys U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U12yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW

Wednesday 31st August - Ennerdale 2.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Friday 2nd September - Rothbury 6.30 - U8yrs / U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U17yrs / U21yrs / Girls U16yrs / Ladies / **12st World Championship** / 13½st / 15st / AW

Saturday 3rd September - Heskett Newmarket 2.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / Novice / 12½st

Saturday 3rd September - Lowick 3.00 - U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / 12½st / AW

Saturday 3rd September - Harbottle 2.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / Novice / 12yrs / AW

Sunday 4th September - Wolsingham 12.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / AW

Sunday 4th September - Loweswater 3.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Thursday 8th September - Westmorland Show - **14 st World Championship**

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



Allendale Show has one of the finest wrestling surfaces on the circuit, being part of the cricket ground. Fortunately it also has the scorer's pavilion right next to the wrestling ring, and it came in really useful last weekend as the forecast heavy rain arrived in time for the wrestling.



Despite the relentless downpour the hardy competitors put on a first class show for the meagre crowd. The usual busload from Rothbury enlivened the proceedings, though the majority of class winners came from the Carlisle club, Thomas Davidson being the exception.



Andrew Carlile kept the lively Joe Hale in check in the lightweights, but had to concede the head prize to Jack Brown in the middleweights. Brown, who has been on a hot winning streak lately, looked as if he could add to his total as he buttocked Joe Thompson in the first fall in the All Weights but Thompson tightened up on hold and dominated to win the next two falls.

Gosforth Show succumbed to the weather as the wrestling was abandoned.

Torver on Sunday had the added bonus of a contingent of Icelandic wrestlers, over in this country for a week or so to take in the sports at Grasmere as well as some of the Scottish Highland Games. They acquitted themselves well, none more so than Asmundur Asmundsson who beat Thomas Brocklebank with cross buttocks and followed that up by hiping triple Champion Graham Brocklebank to win the All Weights. Hjortur Stentersson picked up the lightweights and Marin Davidsdottir wrestled up to Ladies Champion Connie Hodgson in the female class. Ryan Armstrong grabbed a brace in the boy's classes and Matty Hodgson continued his good form with under 12 wins at both venues.

The coming week is the busiest of the calendar with no fewer than thirteen events spread over nine days. There are three Championships up for grabs –

The first ever Ladies ten stones at Bellingham, followed by the eleven stones at Grasmere and the twelve stones at Rothbury mart on Friday night. In amongst that there is a visit from Ben Fogle and the Countrywise program to Ennerdale Show on Wednesday.

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Allendale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 years	M Hodgson	M Bates	K Pepper
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	O Mason	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	F Cansfield	T Davidson
Girls Under 17 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard	A Bates
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Marston	A Bates
11½ Stone	A Carlile	Joe Hale	J Cansfield
13 Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	W Crozier
All Weights	J Thompson	J Brown	A Carlile

Torver

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	R Hodgson	C Dickson
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	J Gibson	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	R Armstrong	T Hodgson	C Dickson
Ladies	C Hodgson	M Davidsdottir	M Runarsdottir
11 ½ Stone	H Stentersson	T Hodgson	J Gibson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	M Freyne	H Stentersson
All Weights	A Asmundsson	G Brocklebank	G Logason

September 1st 2016

NINE EVENTS IN 7 DAYS

NEWS UPDATES

Friday 2nd September - Rothbury 6.30 - U8yrs / U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U17yrs / U21yrs / Girls U16yrs / Ladies / **12st World Championship** / 13½st / 15st / AW

Saturday 3rd September - Heskett Newmarket 2.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / Novice / 12½ st

Saturday 3rd September - Lowick 3.00 - U12yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / 12½st / AW

Saturday 3rd September - Harbottle 2.00 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U15yrs / Ladies / Novice / 12yrs / AW

Sunday 4th September - Wolsingham 12.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / AW

Sunday 4th September - Loweswater 3.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Thursday 8th September - Westmorland Show - 1.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / U21yrs - 11 st / 12st / 13st / **14st World Championship** / AW

Saturday 10th September - Stanhope 1.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / U21yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 12st / 14st / AW

Sunday 11th September - Whitfield 2.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



At the end of a hectic seven days of wrestling, spread over nine events, we have had two Championships decided; a tremendous day of sport at Grasmere; and filming of our sport by the Countrywise TV program, headed by Ben Fogle, at Ennerdale. In addition, our competition has been enriched by visiting wrestlers from Brittany, Iceland and Scotland.



Connie Hodgson made history at Ambleside at the end of July by winning the inaugural Ladies All Weights Championship. Since then she has gradually reduced her weight in an attempt to compete in the first Ladies 10 stone Championship. That seemed in doubt on Saturday morning when she was still above the weight limit, but four hours later she duly weighed in at Bellingham Show. After such a battle to make the weight she was determined not to let the opportunity pass. The first fall in the final against Gemma Coulthard was over in a flash as Gemma broke hold as soon as the referee shouted "wrestle". The second was settled by a back heel and Connie became a double Champion. All the effort to make the weight had paid off.



Andrew Carlile entered the 11 stone Championship at Grasmere as the defending titleholder and after an all action final with his clubmate, David Miller, left the ring still the Champion. He had to summon up all his know how and determination, having lost the first fall as his younger opponent caught him with a swing off the chest. A back heel after he had checked an attempted buttock levelled up the score before a decisive twist over the knee in the final fall gave him the title for the eighth time. The following day at Silloth he again provided an outstanding display by winning all three senior classes. In doing so he was awarded the Bill Harrison trophy for the best performance in the senior wrestling.

Jack Brown also had a three timer, at Bellingham on Saturday, and followed that up at Grasmere the next day with an outstanding display to win both the 12 stone and 13 stone classes and be awarded the Guinness Trophy for the most meritorious performance of the day.

The heavier weights at Grasmere went to visiting wrestlers, with Frazer Hirsch of Carnoustie out hiping Graham Brocklebank in the 14 stones, and the outstanding Icelandic heavyweight Asmunder Asmundsson cross buttocking Thomas Brocklebank to claim the All Weights title.

John Gibson is at a difficult age, having to frequently compete against heavier opponents, so he would be especially pleased with his 8 stone wins at Grasmere and Silloth, where he was also awarded the Robert Lightfoot Cup for the best junior wrestler.



Ennerdale Show was the base for a TV crew from the Countrywise program and its presenter Ben Fogle. Ben displayed his talents as a commentator before taking on the 12 stone Champion John Harrington in a best of five falls challenge. Experience won the day. John Harrington has a much sterner challenge facing him when his Championship is up for grabs at the Rothbury Auction Mart event on Friday night.

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Crosby Ravensworth

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Stainton	J-L Stainton	E-A Stainton
Under 13 Years	J Gibson	M Hodgson	T Hodgson
Under 16 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	J Porsteinsson	M Wharton	T Hayhurst
Ladies	V Beaty	M Davidsdottir	M Runarsdottir
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	A Carlile	H Steindorsson
All Weights	A Asmundsson	T Brocklebank	G Logason
Costume	T Hayhurst	A Marston	

Grayrigg Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 7 Years	B Dodgson	J-L Stainton	S Carlile
Under 9 Years	J Wright	H Morris	G Hodgson
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	B Handley
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	J Porsteinsson	M Wharton
Girls Under 17 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh
Ladies	C Hodgson	Davidsdottir	M Runarsdottir
8 Stones	J Gibson	W Hindmarsh	M Hodgson
11½ Stones	A Carlile	G Brunou	H Steindorsson
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	A Carlile
All Weights	A Asmundsson	G Logason	G Brocklebank

Newcastleton

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 13 Years	T Hodgson	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	J Clutton	T Davidson
Under 18 Years	J Hale	C Whitfield	F Cansfield
Ladies	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	H Hodgson
12½ Stones	J Brown	J Hale	J Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	J Harrington	J Brown

Bellingham Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	W Hindmarsh	M Hodgson
Under 16 Years	F Cansfield	J Brown	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	J Hale	C Whitfield	J Brown
Novices	A Wragg	J Brown	A Storey
Ladies 10 Stone World Championship>	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	H Hodgson
Ladies	C Hodgson	A Marston	G Coulthard
7 Stones	C Wharton	J Gibson	M Hodgson
12 Stone	J Brown	J Hale	C Whitfield
14 Stones	J Brown	J Harrington	C Whitfield
All Weights	J Brown	T Hodgson	M Gennery

Millom

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	B Kirby	M Stainton	J Pritt
Under 12 Years	J Southward,	J Pritt	B Kirby
Local Under 15 Years	J Southward	J Pritt	M Capstick
Under 16 Years	T Hayhurst	J Southward	B Dobson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	J Southward
Ladies	V Beaty	L Albion;	L Gibson
12 Stones	A Pritt	T Hayhurst	J Southward

Grasmere Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	L Bell
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	T Davidson	I Davidson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Gibson	J Brown
Girls Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	J Harrison	A Hindmarsh
Girls Under 18 Years	G Coulthard	A Marston	S Rorrison
Girls 10 Stones	C Hodgson	A Marston	H Hodgson
Ladies All Weights	M Davidsdottir	D Thompson	M Runarsdottir
8 Stones	J Gibson	M Hodgson	J Harrison
11 Stones World Championship	A Carlile	D Miller	G Brunou
12 Stones	J Brown	A Carlile	D Miller
13 Stones	J Brown	R Fox	G Brocklebank
14 stones	F Hirsch	G Brocklebank	M Le Dour
All Weights	A Asmundsson	T Brocklebank	T Hodgson
Costume Boys Under 18 yrs	G Wilson	M Wharton	C Wharton
Costume Girls Under 18 yrs	G Coulthard	A Marston	M Harrison
Costume Ladies	V Beaty	H Hodgson	J Harrison
Costume Men	B Brocklebank	R Fox;	J Brown

Event	First	Second	Third
Guinness Trophy	J Brown		
Best Performance - Men	G Wilson		
Best Performance - Women	M Davidsdottir		

Silloth

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	F Wharton
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	J Gibson	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	B Harrison	R Armstrong	T Hodgson
Girls 7 Stone	F Wharton	S Kent-Carlile	M Harrison
Girls Under 17 Years	J Harrison	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
Ladies	C Hodgson	V Beaty	J Harrison
8 Stones	J Gibson	C Wharton	W Hindmarsh
11 Stones	A Carlile	C Le Gall	D Miller
13 Stones	A Carlile	G Brunou	C Le Gall
All Weights	A Carlile	G Brunou	A Jones
Best Performance Juniors	J Gibson		
Best Performance Seniors	A Carlile		

Black Combe

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	J Pritt	J Middleton	M Adshead
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	E Barnard	J Wharton
Under 14 Years	H Wilson	C Wharton	N Pritt
Under 16 Years	H Wilson	J Davie-Kimber	
Under 18 Years	M Kirkham	J Wilson	J Killip
Girls Under 12 Years	L Wilson	R Mitchell	M Collins
Ladies	L Wilson	R Mitchell	
7 Stones	C Wharton	J Pritt	J Wharton
10 Stones	M Kirkham	C Wharton	N Pritt
12 Stones	M Kirkham	J Wilson	H Wilson
All Weights	W Hayhurst	A Killip	M Kirkham
Best Performance	M Kirkham		
Best Costume	J Wharton		

ENNERDALE SHOW

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Hewitt	M Hodgson	L Wilson
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	R Armstrong	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	W Addyman	G Masey	R Armstrong
Ladies	G Coulthard	L Murray	R Mitchell
12½ Stone	J Harrington	C Le Gall	G Brunou
All Weights	J Harrington	G Brunou	C Le Gall

September 8th 2016

JACK BROWN TAKES THE 12 STONE CHAMPIONSHIP AND SOME MORE!

NEWS UPDATES

Thursday 8th September - Westmorland Show - 1.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / U21yrs - 11 st / 12st / 13st / 14st World Championship / AW

Saturday 10th September - Stanhope 1.30 - U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / U21yrs / Girls U17yrs / Ladies / 12st / 14st / AW

Sunday 11th September - Whitfield 2.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Sunday 11th September - Whitfield - 2.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday 17th September - Egremont 2.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

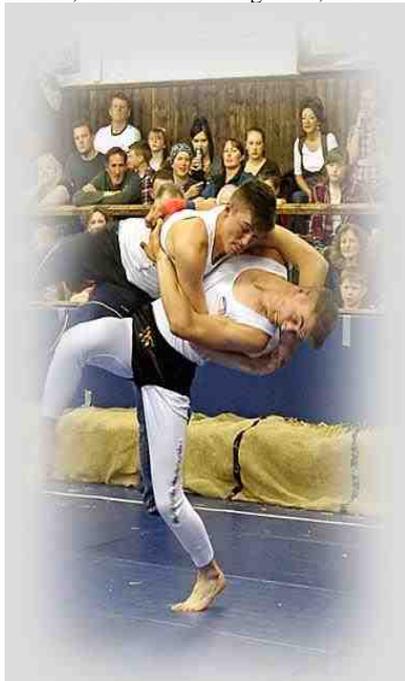
Sunday 18th September - Borrowdale 2.00 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 18th September - Gosforth 4.00 U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U12yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



Jack Brown has had a prolific run of wins over the last few weeks, with several events where he won all the senior classes and an outstanding display at Grasmere, winning two classes and picking up the Guinness Trophy for the best performance. The win he really wanted, however, came at the 12 stones Championship last Friday night at Rothbury Mart. Having accounted for Cade Whitfield of Rothbury and Gerald Brunou of Brittany in the early rounds, without conceding a fall, he arrived in the semi finals along with the 11stone Champion Andrew Carlile and the

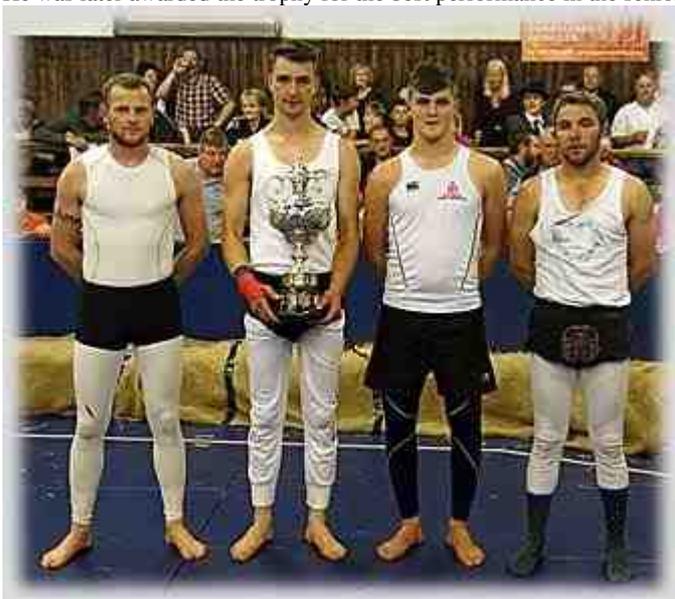


talented local Joe Hale.

Fortune smiled on him as he was drawn as the odd man and through to the final. That left Andrew Carlile and Joe Hale, who had eliminated defending Champion John Harrington on his way through, to contest the semi final and it was the Rothbury youngster who came out on top in an all action affair that needed all three falls to produce a winner.

The first fall in the final went in Jack Brown's favour as he gathered in his opponent and completed the bout with an inside hype. The second bout saw Brown take Hale away on a swinging hype and following in to rush him forward for the decisive fall. This was Jack's first success in the 12 stone Championship and is unlikely to be his last.

He was later awarded the trophy for the best performance in the senior wrestling.



The best performance in the junior wrestling was awarded to Max Bates for his win in the Under 12 class and the quality in his performance across the night.

George Wilson also had a night to be proud of. Not unexpectedly he cleaned up in the Under 18 section, and followed on with top spot in the Under 21. At the end of the night he was there contesting the All Weights final against Ryan Dolan, the heavyweight Champion of two years ago, and grabbed the middle fall as he took the hold, lifted his man clear and dropped him on to his knee.

Unfortunately in the first and last falls he followed the same route as others taken away on inside hypes.

Andrew Ord made an all too rare appearance but showed that class is permanent by dominating the 15 stones before being forced to give way to Ryan Dolan in the All Weights semi final.

Mention must also be given to Laura Elliot for a well earned and overdue win in the Ladies Open as she buttocked to victory against Jack Browns sister, Katie.

The rest of the weekend saw Jack Brown piling up more wins with doubles at Harbottle on Saturday and Wolsingham on Sunday.

(Written by Alf Harrington © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Rothbury Mart

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	R Atkinson	J-L Stainton	
Under 10 Years	T Thompson	A Younger	W Wood
Under 12 Years	M Bates	C Wharton	D Stafford
Under 14 Years	T Davidson	R Armstrong	J Clutton
Under 17 Years	G Wilson	C Whitfield	F Cansfield
Under 21 Years	G Wilson	J Brown	C Whitfield
Girls Under 16 Years	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
Ladies	L Elliot	K Brown	G Coulthard
12 Stones World Championship	J Brown	Joe Hale	A Carlile
13½ Stones	G Brocklebank	G Nielson	Joe Hale
15 Stones	A Ord	F Hirsch	R Fox
All Weights	R Dolan	G Wilson	A Ord
Best Performance.....Juniors	Juniors M Bates	Best Performance... Seniors	J Brown

Hesket Newmarket

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	L Elliot	P Bowman
Under 15 Years	R Armstrong	J Harrison	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	R Armstrong	J Gibson
Ladies	G Coulthard	J Harrison	P Bowman
Novices	R Armstrong	J Harrison	A Turnbull
12½ Stones	J Harrington	K Miller	P Potts
Best Performance	J Harrison		

Harbottle

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	J Renwick	M Bates
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	M Lamont	F Roberts
Under 18 Years	C Whitfield	J Brown	F Cansfield
Girls Under 15 Years	A Hindmarsh	H Dennis	
Ladies	A Bates	A Hindmarsh	
Novices	G Brunou	J Brown	S Blacktin
12 Stones	J Brown	C Whitfield	G Brunou
All Weights	J Brown	Jordan Brown	C Whitfield

Lowick

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 16 Years	L Hodgson	A Carr	
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	L Hodgson	J Cook
Ladies	H Hodgson	R Hodgson	L Albion
12½ Stones	A Carr	L Hodgson	J Cook
All Weights	W Hayhurst	G Wilson	J Cook

Wolsingham

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Hodgson	M Stainton	M Kent-Carlile
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	R Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	J Brown	R Bulloch	M Hodgson
Ladies	H Hodgson	A Hindmarsh	R Hodgson
11½ Stones	A Carlile	C Le Gall	G Brunou
14 Stones	J Brown	S Golightly	J Atkinson
All Weights	J Brown	A Carlile	Jordan Brown

Loweswater

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	A Scammell	R Harper	G Golightly
Under 12 Years	J Wharton	C Crichton	A Spedding
Under 15 Years	A Watson	H Wilson	A Turnbull
Under 18 Years	A Watson	S White	J Harrison
Ladies	K Armstrong	L Wilson	J Harrison
12½ Stones	J Harrington	P Murray	H Wilson
All Weights	J Harrington	A Watson	P Murray

September 15th 2016

BEN BROCKLEBANK MAINTAINS THE FAMILY TRADITION !

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 17th September - Egremont 2.30 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 18th September - Borrowdale CANCELLED

CHANGE OF START TIME

Sunday 18th September - Gosforth 2.00pm U10yrs / U12yrs / U14yrs / U16yrs / U18yrs / Girls U12yrs / Ladies / 7st / 10st / 12st / AW

Saturday 24th September - Langholm Show 12.00 U12/U15/U18/Ladies/12.5/AW

Saturday 24th September - Eskdale Show

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016



The 14 stone Championship was the highlight of a full programme of wrestling at a soggy Westmorland Show. The final brought together Ben Brocklebank of Tewitfield, a few miles down the road from the showfield, and Frazer Hirsch who had travelled all the way from Carnoustie. After his performance in the 14 stones at Grasmere, a couple of weeks ago, Hirsch was many people's favourite for the Championship and this seemed a wise choice after he felled the defending Champion, Graham Brocklebank, in the first round with two well executed buttocks, and then accounted for another local, James Hayhurst in the semi final. In the final he made the running without being able to dominate his younger opponent and was felled with a superb back heel as he went for the hip. The second hold saw Brocklebank turned in and seemingly in a difficult position, before a fine cross click won him the fall and with it the Championship – one which has previously been won by his father, Harry, and his brother Graham.



To complete a good day for the family there were also wins for Graham, in straight falls against Joe Hale in the 13 stones, and for Thomas, also in straight falls against another local, William Hayhurst, in the All Weights.

The competition at Stanhope was overshadowed by a serious leg injury suffered by young Robert Craig. We wish him a speedy recovery.



The outstanding performance on the day came from Craig Ridley who, making an all too rare appearance in the ring, took the top prize in all three senior classes and, not surprisingly, was awarded the trophy for best wrestler. Mention must also be made of Thomas Gibson who held off competition from Rothbury opponents to win both the older age classes.

A month ago Gosforth Show suffered at the hands of a deluge with much of the event abandoned. Undaunted, the committee have decided to try again this Sunday aiming to run those attractions which had been washed out. Ironically this comes at the same time that the committee at Borrowdale have had to concede that their field and the car park are not in good enough condition to host a show and have cancelled their event.

(Written by Alf Harrington © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Westmorland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	J Penelum	W Hindmarsh
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	E Davidson	M Evans
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	J Dickinson	R Armstrong
Under 18 yrs	J Hale	M Kirkham	G Wilson
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	V Beaty
11 StoneUnder 21 Years	S Wilson	T Davidson	M Kirkham
12 Stones	A Carlile	B Brocklebank	M Kirkham
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	J Hale	J Harrington
14 Stones World Championship	B Brocklebank	F Hirsch	J Hayhurst
All Weights	T Brocklebank	W Hayhurst	G Brocklebank
Junior Costume	M Evans	T Hayhurst	H Evans
Senior Costume	B Brocklebank	H Hodgson	J Harrington

Stanhope Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	R Hodgson	Robert Craig
Under 15 Years	R Bulloch	M Hodgson	J Gibson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	Z Singleton	C Whitfield
Under 21 Years	T Gibson	J Brown	Z Singleton
Girls Under 17 Years	G Coulthard	A Bates	A Hindmarsh
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
12 Stones	C Ridley	C Whitfield	R Bulloch
14 Stones	C Ridley	C Whitfield	R Bulloch
All Weights	C Ridley	Jordan Brown	C Whitfield
Best Performance	C Ridley		

Whitfield Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	E-A Stainton	J-L Stainton	S Nichol
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	M Stainton
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	J Gibson	C Wharton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	Z Singleton	M Wharton
Ladies	A Bates	I Singleton	R Hodgson
12½ Stones	J Brown	M Wharton	A Walton
All Weights	J Brown	T Gibson	A Walton

September 22nd 2016

CRAB FAIR AT EGREMONT

NEWS UPDATES

Saturday 24th September - Langholm Show 12.00 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday 24th September - Eskdale Show - 3.00 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 10½st / 12st / AW

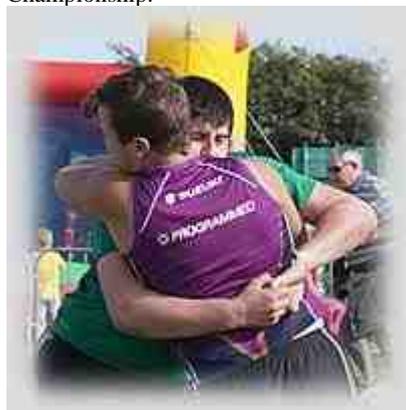
Saturday 8 October - Alwinton 1.00 U10yrs / U13yrs / U16yrs / U21yrs / Girls U16yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / **AW World Championship**

Saturday 8 October - Wasdale Head

Wednesday 12 October - Carlisle Wrestling Club AGM 7.45 p.m.

[CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016](#)

At this time of the season entries tend to thin out, with the exception of Alwinton Show which this year will be hosting the All Weights Championship.



So it proved on Saturday at the Crab Fair at Egremont with the absence of a number of senior wrestlers, for varying reasons, meaning that younger competitors and some enthusiastic locals were able to pick up a share of some good prize money.

One such local, Ben Caine, had won the under 15 class last year and proved too strong against younger but more experienced opponents to retain his title, and then followed that by wrestling up to Thomas Gibson in the Under 18 class.



The senior winners were all well experienced in the sport.

Eleven stone Champion Andrew Carlile cruised through the lightweights and wrestled up to the Brocklebank brothers, Graham and Thomas, in the middleweights and heavyweights respectively.

Cyril Bragg, the judge of the most meritorious performance in the wrestling, commented on the skill he had displayed in winning his falls, as he awarded him the Guinness Trophy.



Gemma Coulthard's procession of wins continued in the Ladies section as she again displayed the art of well executed inside clicks which have become a particularly effective weapon in her armoury.

Sunday saw the second attempt to run the wrestling, and other events, at Gosforth Show. At the original Show in mid August a deluge had led to the afternoon's timetable being abandoned and a decision by the committee to try to complete the unfinished business. This second instalment also saw a return to the ringside of the regular wrestling correspondent, Roger Robson, after an absence of a couple of months due to health issues. His report on the proceedings comments:

The wrestling took place behind a hedge, but there was a roped and mown ring. The Waberthwaite Academy wrestlers from down the road were there to compete, but so also were the Hindmarsh family from the high Cheviots, the Stainton/Hodgson clan from the Howgills, and a couple of wrestlers from Carlisle Wrestling Club. With ten categories there was a long afternoon of action for the young wrestlers. Tom Johnson, with his whippets, judged all afternoon and then took off his jacket to win the All Weights; William Hindmarsh's long journey from Upper Coquetdale was rewarded with two wins; and Michael Kirkham encouraged his protégés in the age classes then felled them all in the 10 and 12 stone classes.

Welcome back Roger.

(Written by Alf Harrington © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Egremont Crab Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	L Wilson	B Rutherford
Under 15 Years	B Caine	H Wilson	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	B Caine	M Kirkham
Ladies	G Coulthard	L Wilson	T Wilson
11½ Stones	A Carlile	M Kirkham	H Wilson
13 Stones	G Brocklebank	A Carlile	A Price
All Weights	T Brocklebank	A Carlile	G Brocklebank

Thropton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Mackay	J Wilkins	L Mason
Under 12 Years	M Bates	W Aycliffe	E Brewis
Under 15 Years	T Davidson	F Roberts	O Mason
Under 18 Years	Joe Hale	Z Singleton	O Mason
Girls Under 16 Years	A Hindmarsh	A Bates	H Dennis

Gosforth Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	W Hindmarsh	M Hodgson	J Pritt
Girls Under 12 Years	C Capstick	L Wilson	E-A Stainton
Under 14 Years	H Wilson	T Hodgson	J Connor
Under 16 Years	H Wilson	W Hindmarsh	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	M Kirkham	H Wilson	T Hodgson
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	C Capstick
8 Stone	W Hindmarsh	J Connor	T Clarke
10 Stone	M Kirkham	H Wilson	M Hodgson
12 Stone	M Kirkham	H Wilson	J Connor
All Weights	T Johnson	H Wilson	M Kirkham

September 29th 2016

LANGHOLM AND ESKDALE SHOWS

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Saturday 8 October - Alwinton 1.00 U10yrs / U13yrs / U16yrs / U21yrs / Girls U16yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / **AW World Championship**

Saturday 8 October - Wasdale Head - 4.00 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 10½st / 12st / AW

Wednesday 12 October - Carlisle Wrestling Club AGM 7.45 p.m.

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

A glance at the results for the Eskdale Show at Langholm last Saturday gives the impression that the wrestling was dominated by members of the Carlisle club.



While it is true that they picked up five of the six head prizes the results belie the contribution made by the visiting wrestlers from the Rothbury club and the young local competitors. Ramsay Dalglish from Lockerbie was persuaded to try his hand and picked up second and third tickets in the junior classes behind the experienced Matty Hodgson and John Gibson. Hopefully this will give him the incentive to compete again in the future.

The appearance of the contingent from the Rothbury club was a welcome sight for the organisers and they all played their part in adding to the proceedings, starting with William Hindmarsh in the under 12s and under 15s where he produced the best fall of the day, a spinning leg up buttock. The Under 18 class belonged to the Rothbury wrestlers with a final between Joe Hale and Zac Singleton, with the former continuing the fine form he has displayed in the last few weeks.

The theme was carried on by the Rothbury girls though none of them were able to prevent Gemma Coulthard, of Rosley, from adding to her already impressive total of wins for the season.

In the seniors the vastly experienced Carlisle club members, Andrew Carlile and Richard Fox, came out on top, though once again it was a visitor from Northumberland, Alex Wragg, that caught the eye. He had wrestled well in the middleweights, without picking up a place, then sprang to prominence in the All Weights wrestling up to Richard Fox having accounted for the lightweight champion Andrew Carlile in the semi final.

Andrew himself had earlier headed the 12½ stones class against rival Jack Brown, who looked rather out of sorts having returned from a Mediterranean holiday the day before.

Later in the day the action continued at the other Eskdale, on the western fringe of the Lakes, with the Waberthwaite club members dominating proceedings until the Kendal brothers, Thomas and William Hayhurst restored order in the men's middleweight and heavyweight classes respectively.

Only one more day of wrestling remains in this season but with the premier Championship, the All Weights, up for grabs at Alwinton Show. After that the emphasis reverts to the clubs and their indoor programmes for the winter months.

With this in mind the Carlisle Wrestling Club is to hold its Annual General meeting on the first Wednesday after the end of the grass season.

(Written by Alf Harrington © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

LangholmShow

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	R Dalglish	W Hindmarsh
Under 15 Years	J Gibson	M Hodgson	R Dalglish
Under 18 Years	J Hale	Z Singleton	M Hodgson
Ladies	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
12½ Stones	A Carlile	J Brown	M Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	A Wragg	A Carlile

Eskdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	C Capstick	J Pritt	J Benson
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	James Harrison	Jack Harrison
Under 18 Years	M Kirkham	J Wilson	J Pritt
10½ Stones	J Wilson	M Kirkham;	H Wilson
12 Stones	T Hayhurst	M Kirkham	J Wilson
All Weights	W Hayhurst	J Wilson	M Kirkham

October 6th 2016

THE END OF THE 2016 SEASON APPROACHES

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Saturday 8 October - Alwinton 1.00 U10yrs / U13yrs / U16yrs / U21yrs / Girls U16yrs / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / **AW World Championship**

Saturday 8 October - Wasdale Head - 4.00 U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 10½st / 12st / AW

Wednesday 12 October - 7.45 p.m - Carlisle Wrestling Club AGM at Currock House.

CWWA World Championship Wrestling Venues for 2016

For the first time in months Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling takes a rest this week before resuming next weekend with the final flourish of a busy season. Two mountain sheep shows, Alwinton (Blackies and Cheviots) and Wasdale Head (Herdwicks), gather big crowds and sponsor wrestling.



Alwinton Show this year is host to the CWWA All Weights World Championship and a local Northumbrian wrestler, Robert Leiper is the holder, winning at Keswick Show.

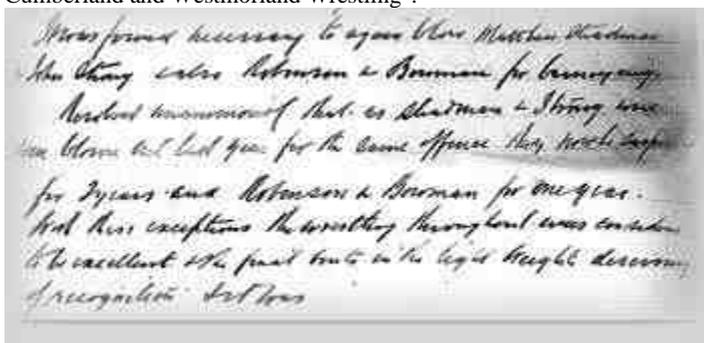
Last year the event was truly international with Icelandic, Breton and Scots wrestlers in contention as the Keswick event coincided with the Grasmere week influx of visiting wrestlers. The Scots wrestlers always support Alwinton enthusiastically, but it is unlikely that wrestlers from other countries will be present, although I do remember that an Icelandic wrestler and his manager did travel specially to take part in a previous All Weights Championship at Alwinton.

In October 2000 I wrote: "Spare a thought for Simmi, an Icelandic wrestler. After months of training, an air flight from Keflavik to Glasgow, a journey by rentacar, and overnight accommodation at Rothbury, who do you think he met in the first round?" "Big Mac", Robert MacNamara, the eventual winner.



The All Weights trophy, like that for the 11 stones championship, has been competed for annually with the exception of wartime since it was first awarded in 1907, and has more than a century of winners inscribed on its base.

The first winner was Joseph Bowman, a scrap-dealer from Penrith, who felled Matt Steadman at Carlisle. Later in the year he was banned from wrestling along with scores of others when he competed at Grasmere Sports which had refused to affiliate to the new "Association Governing Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling".



Ironically, the main purpose of the new body was to clean up the sport from "barneying", the corrupt buying and selling of falls, and at Grasmere 1907 the problem was spectacularly illustrated when four wrestlers in the last six were "blawn oot" for cheating. So Joe Bowman was banned by the CWWA for wrestling at the unaffiliated Grasmere Sports, and simultaneously banned by Grasmere for cheating.

More than a century later the Wrestling Association continues its role of regulating Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling for the benefit of wrestlers, organisers and spectators.

My thanks go to Alf Harrington for his excellent wrestling articles during my absence

(Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

October 13th 2016

A FITTING END TO THE 2016 OUTDOOR WRESTLING SEASON

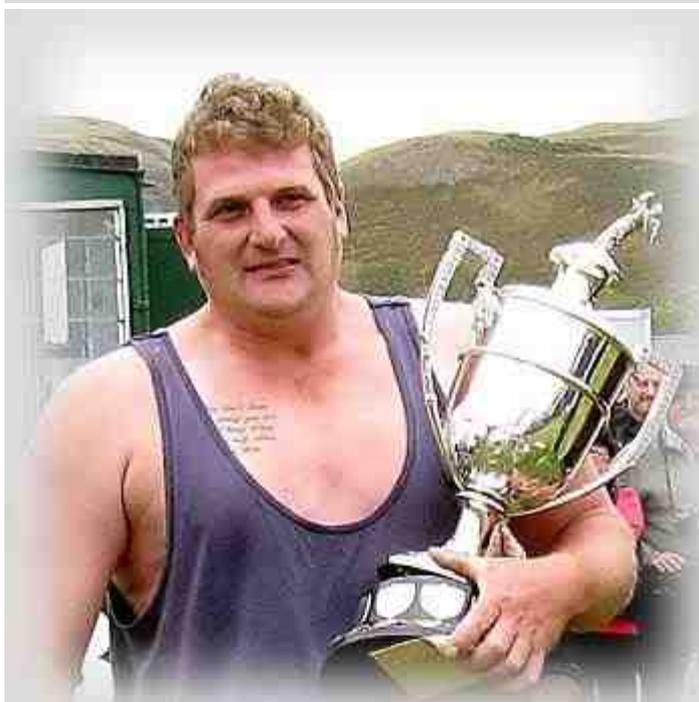


The All Weights World Championship at Alwinton Show provided a fitting climax and conclusion to the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season. Not only that, but the last bout of the final kept the suspense going with twists, survivals and counters as two big skilled men made the big ring seem small, and kept the big crowd oohing and aahing.

Alwinton Border Shepherds' Show was celebrating its One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, and wrestling has been a major part of its heritage. The championship wrestling, too, had its extra back story for the eventual winner, Thomas Brocklebank, had his own special drive to win this year, to honour his father's memory. Harry Brocklebank, who died the day before Ambleside Sports this year, had won the All Weights Championship in 1977 and 1990. His father, Wilf, had thrice won the championship in the early 1970s.

Earlier in the season Thomas's brother Ben had won the 14st championship at the Westmorland Show, and Graham was a double champion with the 13 and 15 stone titles to his name. On a bitter/sweet day at Ambleside, immediately after their father's death, the three brothers all won their weight.

So, what or who was there to stop Thomas Brocklebank completing the story? Well, there was a significant tonnage of men in the entry; men able to use their weight to full advantage. The holder, [Robert Leiper](#), was hiping well; David Barnes even with his considerable weight had his devastating hank in action; Andrew Ord's first fall was recorded in my notebook as "hold...lift...twist back". And then there were the Scots, the Auld Enemy: Frazer Hirsch and Ryan Dolan from Carnoustie, certainly not travelling all that way to make up the numbers and enjoy the scenery.



In fact, Ryan Dolan was the main threat to the story's neat ending, though he also cleared away much of the heaviest opposition. In the first round there was an epic battle with Graham Younger that went to four holds. In the semi-final his hips came into action to send Andrew Ord flying.

Eventually though, the final was an international bout, England versus Scotland, between Brocklebank and Dolan. The pattern of the wrestling was fluid and continuous as each wrestler attacked and defended. Dolan went ahead and then Brocklebank equalised. The last bout therefore became sudden death with all the tension that brings. After a long action packed duel, when each wrestler seemed to have won several times, they eventually hit the ground with Thomas Brocklebank desperately twisting to win.

In the rest of the action, young Rothbury wrestlers did their coaches proud to win all the youth events at Under 8/10/13/16/ and 21 years. Gemma Coulthard of Carlisle Wrestling Club rounded off a successful year with a double win. John Harrington came out on top in a wonderful 11½st final with Andrew Carlile, all measured and careful with bursts of action. And Graham Brocklebank showed why he is a double champion, felling Jack Brown in the 14st final.

A hundred miles away at Wasdale Head Show, the Waberthwaite Academy was in full control of all the categories, until Carlisle's Jack Ewart won the All Weights.

That's the wrestling over for 2016; it's Winter, folks!

(Written by Roger Robson © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Alwinton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	V Mason	W Wilkins	L Mason
Under 10 Years	A Younger	J Wilkins	W Fellowes
Under 13 Years	W Hindmarsh	W Alyffe	F Cairns.
Under U16 Years	Z Singleton	J Clutton	F Cansfield
Girls Under 16 Years	G Coulthard	A Bates	A Hindmarsh
Under 21 Years	J Hale	Z Singleton	A Wragg
11½ Stones	J Harrington	A Carlile	T Davidson
14 Stones	G Brocklebank	J Brown	A Carlile
Ladies Open	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
All Weights World Championship	T Brocklebank	R Dolan	D Barnes

Wasdale Head Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Pritt	J Penellum	J Clarke
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	J Pritt	J Penellum
Under 18 Years	J Wilson	H Wilson	W Brooke
10½ Stones	J Wilson	H Wilson	M Coup
12 Stones	A Myers	P Murray	J Nichol
All Weights	J Ewart	A Myers	C Naylor
Ladies	L Meier	G Gratix	L Wilson

October 20th 2016

ACADEMIES

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Friday, 4th November

CWWA Presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall. Tickets from the CWWA secretaries.

If a really keen, or possibly mad, Cumberland and Westmorland wrestler fancied a full week of wrestling training this winter, what would he or she find?

Mondays 6.30 to 8.30 Waberthwaite Academy in the Village Hall.

In far-Western Cumbria, youth is in charge. Senior citizen, Tom Porter, who has run the club for umpteen years, has taken a back seat this year, though he still attends occasionally. Instead, Tom Johnson, youth champion, Michael Kirkham, Dylan Fleming and James Wilson, stiffened by two older wrestlers, Alan Pritt and Wayne Rothery, are running a sort of wrestling commune. It seems to work; twenty-eight wrestlers, mainly youngsters, turned up one night. The club representative on the CWWA Governing Board, Rod Kimber, is organising a taster session at Seascale Gym this half-term.

You canna be in two places at once so Wednesday would be a problem for our ambitious and errant wrestler:

Wednesday 6.30 to 8.30 Rothbury Academy in Dr Thomlinson Middle School.



Anyone who has been to wrestling events this year will be aware of the important role played by Rothbury Academy. They don't just bring car-loads of wrestlers; they bring a bus-load, literally. Many's the time when the black and red strips of the Northumbrians make the difference

between a gey plain event and crowd-pleaser. And watch out for the future. They start their training session with the under tens at 6.30 before the rest arrive an hour later. Darren Whitfield and Jason Davidson, helped by Alex Wragg, have enthused a whole region and legion of wrestlers.

Wednesday 7.45 onwards, Carlisle Wrestling Club, Currock House Gym, Lediard Avenue.

Carlisle Wrestling Club is a focus for a mainly rural sport in an urban setting; in the city but not of the city; no-one, except Tom Harrington, walks there or uses public transport. Instead, Currock House Community Centre draws youngsters and men from the surrounding villages as far away as Northumberland, the Scottish Borders, and the Solway coast. Sixteen Young Farmers Clubs from the Northern District come to train for their Field Day.



The training staff brings together three great wrestlers who have been the most successful of their generation: multi-champions Tom Harrington, Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile. Tom was a founding member of the club forty-six years ago. Andrew is a current world champion.

Thursday 7 till 8.15 Milnthorpe Academy in the Junior Football Pavilion.

The Milnthorpe academy is starting its sixteenth year after David Parsons broke away from the Kendal Academy to provide wrestling for his local community. The club tends to be smaller than the others but has always brought on a useful coterie of active wrestlers. Two years ago, David, the only coach and organiser, was thinking of closing the club but a quadruple heart by-pass operation sorted all that out and he went back to work and wrestling with renewed vigour. He is pleased with the turn-out this winter season as a result of some good word-of-mouth recommendations from existing wrestlers.

Finally, our exhausted and far-travelled wrestler would round off the week in the south of Cumbria:

Kendal Academy 7.30 onwards at Burnieside Cricket Pavilion.

At one point in the 1960s, Kendal Academy was the only place open for wrestling indoors in wintertime. The main man there now is John Wilson who has kept the show on the road for some years. This year he is pleased with the arrival of new wrestlers and has been backed up in training by Hannah Hodgson. Because wrestling is such a family orientated sport he does not divide the groups formally, for the same car-load could bring wrestlers of all age groups to the mats. He is busy accumulating his supporting coaches, and one good prospect must be Connie Hodgson the double female champion who is also training to be a PE teacher.

A great champion wrestler, Bob Millican, died last week. More details next week.

(Written by Roger Robson © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

October 27th 2016

BOB MILLICAN

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Friday, 4th November

CWWA Presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall. Tickets from the CWWA secretaries.



Bob Millican, a great wrestler of my young days in the sixties, has died suddenly at the age of seventy-eight. Although very much a light-middleweight, competing at 11½ stones and 12 stones, he made his reputation in more substantial weight categories, culminating in his historic win in the All Weights World Championship at Ambleside Sports in 1967.

With his long back and powerful short legs, he had a low centre of gravity and was adept at reactive wrestling. He would bide his time and wait for his opponent to attack, then clamp his attacking leg like a gin trap, before twisting over the knee to win.

From 1962 to 1964 he was master of the 13 stones World Championship, felling noted contemporary wrestlers in the finals. At Aikton Sports in 1962 down went Jim Bland in the final. In 1963 the long, lean figure of Jock Elliot of Langholm was beaten at Bellinham Show. And at Barbon in 1964 he felled that hardest of wrestlers, Freddie Jones of Brampton in the final.

There were signs of more to come when in 1966 he was runner up to Alan Coulthard in the All Weights Championship at the Cumberland Show.



His best year of all was in 1967 when he wrestled up to Alan Davidson in the 12st Championship at Hethersgill and then reached the wrestling pinnacle of the All Weights Championship title at Ambleside Sports. He met another lighter wrestler in the final, Tom Harrington who wrestled mainly at 11 stones.

Tom had to do all the heavy work in the early rounds when he felled the great and massive, Wilf Brocklebank, and his even bigger brother John. On the other side of the draw Bob kept fresh and that told in the final.

After his active wrestling career finished he did not become involved with officiating or coaching, with the notable exception of his local event, Skelton Show. Each year he was to the fore in organising and keeping us on our toes with his forthright views. (Elsewhere in the paper there is probably going to be a fuller obituary)

In the meantime, in November, Low Hesket Village Hall, just south of Carlisle is to be the centre and focus of the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling world: the CWWA Presentation Dinner on Friday, 4th, and the Academy Shield on Saturday the 19th. The Dinner honours the most prolific winners of the 2016 season, but this year will also bring together all the World Champions and their trophies for a rare gathering together of all the valuable silverware that has accumulated since 1906.

November 3rd 2016

CWWA PRESENTATION DINNER

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Wednesday, November 9th 7.45pm - Junior Points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club, Currock House, Carlisle.

Wednesday, November 16th 8.45pm - Senior Points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club

Saturday, November 19th - Academy Shield at Low Hesket Village Hall.

Tonight, (Friday 4th November) over a hundred people from all angles of the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling world, will meet in the Victory Hall, Low Hesket, near Carlisle, for the CWWA Presentation Dinner. As well as the food, the craic and the presentation of the Victor Ludorum trophies for the 2016 Grass Season, there will also be a special gathering together of all the Wrestling Association championship trophies and their most recent winners. By their nature, the challenge trophies appear at the relevant event and then disappear onto a Northumbrian or Scottish mantelpiece for a year until they are needed again in the following year. Many years have passed since all the hallmarked silver came together under one roof ... an insurer's nightmare.



In addition some even older trophies will be on display but without their winners. The original winner of the Grasmere Sports belts, William R. Yates of Hornby, would have had all five belts polished and displayed as a testament to his wrestling skills at the turn of the Nineteenth Century. But what happens when a wrestler dies? Do his children split them up between them?

In this case, Mrs Kathleen Lamb from Rugeley, a long way south of Kendal, a granddaughter of William Yates, acting as a sort of executrix for the family properties found the belts and instead of weighing up their value in pounds and pence for family coffers, decided to gather them together and offer them to the CWWA Governing Board, so that they would "not be lost to wrestling". The CWWA Governing Board accepted the ownership of the belts, expressed appreciation of the thought behind the gift, and discussed how they could be used and where they could be kept





The biggest hoard of silverware in possession of the CWWA is the George Steadman collection, which had previously been held by Grasmere Sports committee. That now is stored in the Count Archives in Carlisle and only this year proved invaluable in providing superb trophies for the two new women's championships.

The Presentation Dinner will have another novelty this year when the first calendar featuring Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling will be trialled. Linda Scott will provide a sample of what it would be like and hopes to take orders for Christmas. There will be no coy pictures of half-naked wrestlers, and it is impossible to have images appropriate to the season. Instead, the pictures will be a record of the 2016 wrestling season: people, places, trophies, action and humour, but not all at the same time.

The main photographers are Linda Scott, Julian Richardson, Jill Robson and me, who cover most events throughout the summer, or at least our cameras do. Very often Linda doles her camera out to spectators to take photos while she organises the table, and my camera is often passed round family members to have a go. We're not proud, and are not worried about copyright so long as our efforts promote our beautiful sport.

November 10th 2016

WINNERS OF THE 2016 VICTOR LUDORUM AND VICTRIX LUDORUM TROPHIES AT THE CWWA PRESENTATION

DINNER

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Wednesday, November 16th 8.45pm - Senior Points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club

Saturday, November 19th - Academy Shield at Low Hesket Village Hall - Open Classes U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11½st / 13st / AW



A packed village hall at Low Hesket brought together wrestlers and supporters from Northumberland, Lancashire, and all parts of Cumbria, to reward the most successful wrestlers of the year. The Victor Ludorum trophies are awarded to the wrestlers who have gained most points through the Summer season, from Hethersgill in early May until Alwinton and Wasdale Head in October: three points for a first place; two for

second and one point for third. The trophies reward success and skill, but they also reward keenness and a big mileage.



Connie Hodgson with a remarkable record of sixty points from twenty events still did not win the Open Ladies Victrix Ludorum, for Gemma Coulthard kept picking up points of all sorts throughout the season and clinched the award with a series of wins at the very end. Connie did, however, go home from Low Hesket with one of the most treasured trophies: the Wrestlers' Wrestler, voted for on the night by all the active wrestlers in the room.

The winner of the Under 12 Years, Matty Hodgson, only had to walk about a hundred yards from his home to pick up his trophy, but his mother had taken him far afield in the summer. Although fiercely competitive, he has formed a good friendship with his main rival for the title, William Hindmarsh, who lives on a remote farm in the Cheviot Hills. Mattie has wrestled for many years and is a credit to the Carlisle coaches who have furnished him with so many clever techniques.

The Under 15s trophy went to Mark Wharton who is making a habit of winning. At the Cumberland Show he won the Under 15s Championship and I wrote: "None of his opponents could stop his hipes. Sometimes they delayed the inevitable, but Wharton carefully loaded his opponents, waited till they were just in the right position and launched them up high before bringing them down onto their backs." His cricket occasionally gets in the way of his wrestling, but 2016 was a great year for him.

Gemma Coulthard attends the Nelson Thomlinson school in Wigton, as does Mark, and she went one better by winning two of the trophies, at Under 17 and the Open Ladies. Two years ago she was the first girl to come top of the pile in the Under 12 Years. As her grand-father, I can understand her success for she sometimes lifts me up and carries me around the kitchen...frightening.

When the top three wrestlers at Under 18 Years came forward to receive their awards, the CWWA President, Joe Harrington and his wife Irene who were presenting the prizes were dwarfed by the young giants, Zak Singleton, George Wilson and the main winner, Thomas Gibson. At the wrestling club this week Thomas weighed in at 16 stones, so if you need any girders moved, he's your man.



Every week in Winter Andrew Carlile is one of the main coaches at Carlisle Wrestling Club, and in the Summer he shows the rest how it's done, by example. As one of the cleverest wrestlers of his generation, he is able to compete with success well above his weight category.

The Brocklebank brothers have had a great season, but even their impressive statistics were not enough to win a Victor Ludorum trophy. Instead, Jack Brown, with his blacksmith's muscles, his towering frame, high skill factors and a dad with a loud voice, came first in both the Middleweights and the Heavyweight section.

(Written by Roger Robson © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Ludorum Trophies 2016 (with Points scored during the Season)

Event	First	Second	Third
Under12 Years	M Hodgson (69)	W Hindmarsh (49)	C Wharton (46)
Under 15 Years	M Wharton (42)	Equal 2nd - J Gibson & T Davidson (31)	
Under 18 Years	T Gibson (52).	G Wilson (44)	Z Singleton (31)
Ladies Under 17 Years	G Coulthard (34)	A Hindmarsh (27)	A Bates (22)
Ladies	G Coulthard (65)	C Hodgson (60)	A Hindmarsh (27)
Lightweights	A Carlile (27)	J Harrington (19)	J Gibson (16)
Middleweights	J Brown (46)	G Brocklebank (43)	A Carlile (30)
Heavyweights	J Brown (59)	G Brocklebank (53)	T Brocklebank (46)

Wrestling Club Juniors Junior Points - November

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stones	F Wharton.			
7 Stones	C Wharton	J Wharton	J Gibson	M Hodgson
8½ Stones	M Hodgson	J Gibson	V Davidson	J Wharton
Girls 8½ Stones	P Bowman	F Wharton		
10 Stones	R Armstrong	J Gibson	C Wharton	V Davidson
Under 12 Years	C Wharton	M Hodgson	J Wharton	P Bowman
Under 15 Years	G Coulthard	R Armstrong	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Ladies	G Coulthard		P Bowman	F Wharton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	G Coulthard	R Armstrong	J Gibson
Best Performance	Connor Wharton			

November 17th 2016

WINNERS AND TROPHIES

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Saturday, November 19th - Academy Shield at Low Hesket Village Hall - Open Classes U9yrs / U12yrs / U15yrs / U18yrs / 11½st / 13st / AW



Cumberland and Westmorland may be the ultimate minority sport, largely unnoticed and unsupported by the national sports bodies, but we certainly have a wonderful stash of trophies. Usually a championship trophy arrives in the boot of a car at some designated sports meeting, and spends an hour or two sitting on a table at the ring-side to remind wrestlers and spectators that this is a special event. Wrestling done, trophy presented and photographs taken, it then goes into another car-boot, or the same one, and disappears from view for another year.

This year, though, was different. At the CWWA Presentation Dinner, all the champions were invited to bring their trophies along for re-presentation and a group photograph for people and for silverware. As a result all the trophies were gathered together in the same room and a sort of social history of wrestling and its place in society was on view.



In 1906 when the CWWA was formed to regulate a corrupt sport, only four world championships were on offer: at 8½ stones, 9½ stones, 11 stones and All Weights. I can scarcely visualise a grown man and athlete weighing in at 8½stones, yet that must have seemed normal in a period when diet could be poor and scurvy and rickets were still around. As it happened the committee had pitched the weight too low even for those times for it was only contested five times before being upgraded to 10 stones for 1913. As the nation grew bigger and heavier, it moved again to the 12 stones category in 1931, and that is the trophy held by the present champion, Jack Brown.

Another original trophy, presented for the 9½ stones from 1907 to 1965, followed the same trajectory for it was transferred to the 12½ stones for nearly three decades before moving up again to 15 stones to cater for the normal weights of the twenty-first Century.

Boys Championships were introduced in the 1920s and 1930s, and then weight categories for boys were introduced in the late Twentieth Century.

The other social development represented by the silver trophies is the recognition of female wrestlers. Only this year, two new championships were introduced and fine silver trophies were retrieved from the Steadman Collection at Cumbria County Archives to reward the winners of the Ladies 10st and All Weights Championships...except there was only one winner: Connie Hodgson.

All the trophies provide a record of a century of wrestling, but I have a particular preference for the 11st and All Weights cups which have continued unchanged from when in 1907 Wilkinson Temple of Westward felled J Bennett of Patterdale at Ullswater from an entry of 116 wrestlers, and Joseph Bowman of Penrith felled Matt Steadman of Carlisle in the All Weights final at Carlisle.

November 24th 2016

RESULTS - ACADEMY SHIELD 2016 - 2017

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Sunday December 4th - 7.30 for 8pm Wrestling Image Show, Currock House, Carlisle



For the second time in a month, the Victory Hall in Low Hesket, just south of Carlisle, was the meeting point for the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling community. Last week the napery, cutlery and crockery of the Presentation Dinner were nowhere to be seen. Instead, it was down to wrestling business, with the hall chairs all focusing in on the judo-matted area: the wrestling ring and the Academy Shield Match.



Four Academies were represented: Rothbury from North Northumberland, Waberthwaite from near the Irish Sea, and Kendal from the deep south; well, south of Shap, anyway; and of course, Carlisle, the host club.

The original Academy Shield competition brought in after the Second World War was for men only, divided into lightweights, middle weights and all weights; no boys and females. The present format is very different and gives equal value to the lightest and youngest members of an academy for it begins with the 6 stones and goes incrementally a stone at a time up to 15st and then the All Weights. Add in also two women's weights and you have thirteen sections to be wrestled as round robins before a result is reached.

This year Rothbury set the early pace, with Matthew Lamont (8st) and Jacob Cansfield (9st) winning all their bouts, and they were still in the lead with the running totals after six sections. Then came a purple patch for Carlisle when David Miller (11st), John Harrington (12st), Jack Brown (13st) and Richard Fox (14st) scored fifteen points out of a possible sixteen.

For the last three sections it was a matter of Carlisle hanging on to the lead as the Kendal heavyweights made a belated surge, with Graham and Thomas Brocklebank winning all their bouts. In the end Carlisle wrestlers were the winners by four falls, and can be particularly proud of their achievement as they had a different wrestler for each category without any doubling up.



The coaches for the four competing academies had to choose the best wrestler of the night without nominating anyone from their own team, and came to the conclusion that Joe Hale had given the best account of himself.

In the open events which took place before and after the main match, Carlisle wrestlers again showed their dominance by winning every single category.

Another night for the whole wrestling community takes place on Sunday night December 4th at Currock House, Carlisle, when images of the 2016 Grass Season will be on the screen, CDs available, calendars to collect, refreshments and good craic on offer. With any luck, Storm Desmond will not make an appearance, as he did last year.

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WINNERS Academy Shield 2016 - 2017)

First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Carlisle A (39 Points)	Kendal (35 Points)	Rothbury (30 Points)	Waberthwaite (18 Points)	Carlisle B (7 Points)

RESULTS Academy Shield 2016 - 2017 (OPEN CLASSES)

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	T Coulthard	M Benson	A Coulthard
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	T Wilson
Under 15 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	J Clutton
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	J Hale	Z Singleton
11½ Stone	A Carlile	M Kirkham	D Miller
13 Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	D Miller
All Weights	J Ewart	T Gibson	J Harrington

Carlisle Wrestling Club Points Night - Seniors

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stones	D Miller	A Carlile	K Miller	M Wharton
13 Stones	J Brown	A Carlile	D Miller	M Wharton
All Weights	A Carlile	T Gibson	J Brown	J Ewart

December 1st 2016

A FITTING END TO THE 2016 OUTDOOR WRESTLING SEASON

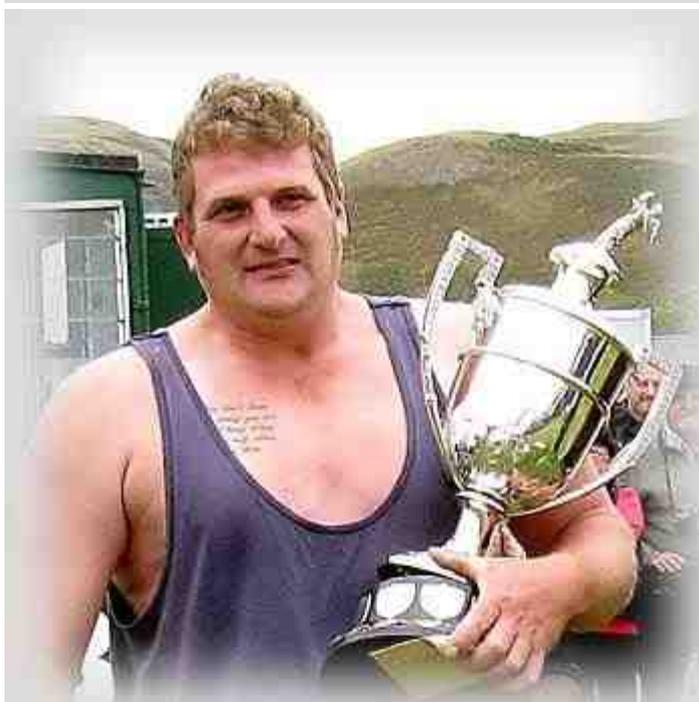


The All Weights World Championship at Alwinton Show provided a fitting climax and conclusion to the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season. Not only that, but the last bout of the final kept the suspense going with twists, survivals and counters as two big skilled men made the big ring seem small, and kept the big crowd oohing and aahing.

Alwinton Border Shepherds' Show was celebrating its One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, and wrestling has been a major part of its heritage. The championship wrestling, too, had its extra back story for the eventual winner, Thomas Brocklebank, had his own special drive to win this year, to honour his father's memory. Harry Brocklebank, who died the day before Ambleside Sports this year, had won the All Weights Championship in 1977 and 1990. His father, Wilf, had thrice won the championship in the early 1970s.

Earlier in the season Thomas's brother Ben had won the 14st championship at the Westmorland Show, and Graham was a double champion with the 13 and 15 stone titles to his name. On a bitter/sweet day at Ambleside, immediately after their father's death, the three brothers all won their weight.

So, what or who was there to stop Thomas Brocklebank completing the story? Well, there was a significant tonnage of men in the entry; men able to use their weight to full advantage. The holder, [Robert Leiper](#), was hiping well; David Barnes even with his considerable weight had his devastating hank in action; Andrew Ord's first fall was recorded in my notebook as "hold...lift...twist back". And then there were the Scots, the Auld Enemy: Frazer Hirsch and Ryan Dolan from Carnoustie, certainly not travelling all that way to make up the numbers and enjoy the scenery.



In fact, Ryan Dolan was the main threat to the story's neat ending, though he also cleared away much of the heaviest opposition. In the first round there was an epic battle with Graham Younger that went to four holds. In the semi-final his hips came into action to send Andrew Ord flying.

Eventually though, the final was an international bout, England versus Scotland, between Brocklebank and Dolan. The pattern of the wrestling was fluid and continuous as each wrestler attacked and defended. Dolan went ahead and then Brocklebank equalised. The last bout therefore became sudden death with all the tension that brings. After a long action packed duel, when each wrestler seemed to have won several times, they eventually hit the ground with Thomas Brocklebank desperately twisting to win.

In the rest of the action, young Rothbury wrestlers did their coaches proud to win all the youth events at Under 8/10/13/16/ and 21 years. Gemma Coulthard of Carlisle Wrestling Club rounded off a successful year with a double win. John Harrington came out on top in a wonderful 11½st final with Andrew Carlile, all measured and careful with bursts of action. And Graham Brocklebank showed why he is a double champion, felling Jack Brown in the 14st final.

A hundred miles away at Wasdale Head Show, the Waberthwaite Academy was in full control of all the categories, until Carlisle's Jack Ewart won the All Weights.

That's the wrestling over for 2016; it's Winter, folks!

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Alwinton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	V Mason	W Wilkins	L Mason
Under 10 Years	A Younger	J Wilkins	W Fellowes
Under 13 Years	W Hindmarsh	W Alyffe	F Cairns.
Under U16 Years	Z Singleton	J Clutton	F Cansfield
Girls Under 16 Years	G Coulthard	A Bates	A Hindmarsh
Under 21 Years	J Hale	Z Singleton	A Wragg
11½ Stones	J Harrington	A Carlile	T Davidson
14 Stones	G Brocklebank	J Brown	A Carlile
Ladies Open	G Coulthard	A Hindmarsh	A Bates
All Weights World Championship	T Brocklebank	R Dolan	D Barnes

Wasdale Head Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Pritt	J Penellum	J Clarke
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	J Pritt	J Penellum
Under 18 Years	J Wilson	H Wilson	W Brooke
10½ Stones	J Wilson	H Wilson	M Coup
12 Stones	A Myers	P Murray	J Nichol
All Weights	J Ewart	A Myers	C Naylor
Ladies	L Meier	G Gratix	L Wilson

December 8th 2016

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND WRESTLING ON YOUR TV SCREENS ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Wednesday December 14th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior points



"This week Ben Fogle is in the Lake District at the annual Ennerdale Show where he takes part in some sheep showing and gets to grips with some Cumbrian wrestling". So says the listings for the ITV programme Countrywise: Guide to Britain, scheduled for 8pm on Friday 9th December. Although, I was ill at the time, I know that he made a good impact with his efforts in the wrestling ring, in the traditional strip, and presenting the prizes in his yellow waterproof jacket.

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling has been well covered by the media this year with "Secret Britain" in May, "Countryfile" in July, "Hardeeps Sunday Lunch" on Radio 4 with the Hodgson Family, and now "Countrywise".



I remember the making of the Secret Britain programme in August 2015, when the cameraman/director constantly wanted me to say the word "secret" to justify the title of the programme. He failed to see the irony of the wrestling entry at Grayrigg Show boosted by competitors from Iceland, Brittany and North-East Scotland.

In recent years our wrestling has featured prominently in several popular series where celebrities have visited the area. In 2007 Robbie Coltrane's "B Road Britain" called in at the Hodgson's farm in Dentdale for wrestling lessons and mucky feet before travelling on to see the action at Dalemain. 2009 saw Paddy McGuinness and Rory McGrath competing at Ambleside Sports as part of their "Great British Adventure".

In 2011 "Ade in Britain" followed Ade Edmundson to the grounds of Kendal Castle for gurning and wrestling before cooking us a great meal of Cumberland sausage and Cumberland Sauce. In 2013 the cameras followed Warwick Davis to Torver Show on one of his "Weekend Escapes" with his family. There he judged some wrestling and the costume competition. And in 2015, Robson Green's "More Tales of Northumberland" showed him in action in the 11st Championship at the previous year's Powburn Show.



Fifty years ago the cameras were at Corbridge Show for a lightweight championship, and I remember the poor production values of the programme which had none of the real action, but demanded that the finalists wrestled themselves to exhaustion as a backdrop to a prolonged interview. Luckily, the approach changed when "Blue Peter's" John Noakes attended a wrestling academy, and as a genuine entrant at Grasmere was swung around by his ears by Gordon Younger.

In general, the celebrities turn out in the traditional costume and give their best attempt in the action, and that is what you will see Ben Fogle doing tonight.

A great supporter of our wrestling died at the age of 82 in Derbyshire recently. Maurice Rutherford learned his wrestling in Weardale when there was an academy there, but was unable to continue his active career because of illness as a youth. For years he has been giving quiet support to keep the wrestling going at Stanhope and Wolsingham. A memorial service for him will be held at 1pm on Friday December 16th at High House Methodist Chapel, Ireshopeburn.

December 15th 2016

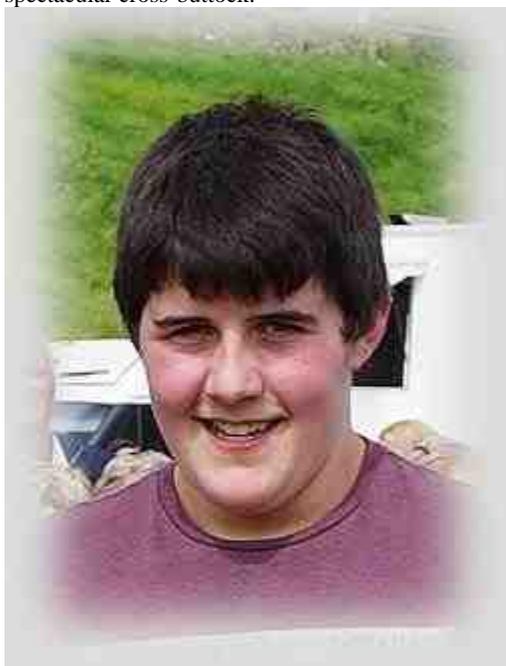
CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB POINTS NIGHT

In the last two competitive indoor sessions of 2016, Carlisle Wrestling Club held its Junior and Men's Points Nights, and found that it had another academy lurking within. Low Hesket, the small village on the old A6 just south of Carlisle, has been the centre of our wrestling world recently with both the CWWA Annual Presentation Dinner and the Academy Shield held in its village hall in close succession. Now four wrestlers from that parish have made a takeover bid in the Carlisle Points Nights.



Firstly in the Juniors, John Gibson, Matty Hodgson, Ryan Armstrong and Thomas Gibson won six categories between them. John Gibson was on particularly good form as he won the trophy for the best over-all performance. He was looking sharp in all his bouts and that was shown by his counter-attacking skills where he was not content just to survive attacks, but used them to his own advantage. Under 12 Years wrestler of the year, Matty Hodgson, attacked him with a lethal combination of hipe and back-heel, but John rode it all and countered with a winning twist. Likewise, in the 8½st final he hiped Connor Wharton off the back-heel.

Matty Hodgson had been wrestling well but losing crucial falls in the lighter weights, but when it came to the final of the Under 12 Years, he produced the best fall of the night. He and Connor Wharton from Thursby had the closest of matches and stood equal after two good bouts. The decider could have gone either way as first one then the other had the chance to win. Finally, and most suddenly, Matty finished the job with a spectacular cross-buttock.



Ryan Armstrong is a good football player, but in the summer he and his family have been regulars at the wrestling rings throughout the area. Now, he has continued his excellent wrestling progress on the mats, winning both the 10 stones section and the Under 15s, hipping all the way. He even took second place in the Under 18s which was won by Thomas Gibson.

Thomas Gibson is a big lad, now a free-lance farm worker, with muscle-power to spare, so his win in the Under 18s was not unexpected. A week later, though, in the Men's All Weights he had his work cut out to win. Against four opponents, my notes speak eloquently of his route to victory:

- v. Andrew Carlile – "back-heel...nibble...follow up";
- v. Jack Ewart – "right leg back-heel";

- v. David Barnes – "back-heel and hold...stopped hank";
- v. David Miller – "hipe and dump". He was unbeatable.

Coach and multi-champion Tom Harrington MBE, has missed the club for a couple of weeks, nursing bruised ribs having been felled by a bath-mat. Sic transit gloria mundi.

(Written by Roger Robson © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})

Carlisle Wrestling Club - Junior Points

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

Carlisle Wrestling Club - Men's Points

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A Carlile	D Miller		
13 Stone	A Carlile	D Miller		
All Weights	T Gibson	D Barnes	J Ewart	A Carlile

December 22nd 2016

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It's that time of year again when a fat envelope from ex-archivist Jeremy Godwin and Paddy, the dog, lands on my mat, stuffed with cuttings about wrestling and Belted Galloways, hand-written notes about this and that, and a Christmas card.

Jeremy's newspapers cover the areas round Kendal, Whitehaven, Hexham, Penrith and Keswick. None of them have regular coverage of wrestling but respond to what is on in their area. The Hexham Courant, The Westmorland Gazette and The Whitehaven News are all excellent at advertising upcoming events, often with excellent, but small colour photos of wrestling action. Then there are the results and photos of what actually happened, but the tale of the wrestling action is never told.



The Westmorland Gazette was particularly good at boosting the new Women's All Weights Championship at Ambleside, with details of three of the Hodgson sisters travelling to London for a dramatic photo-shoot in front of London landmarks. Ambleside Sports was disastrous in terms of bad weather, with a shortened Rydal Round race for safety's sake and curtailed Hound-trails when two of those laying the trails got lost in the clouds, but I loved the account by Ambleside Chairman, Jak Hirst, in the local news column of how the day progressed, ending with the comment that "the spirit shown by the whole community to make a success of the sports despite the adversity of the weather would linger in his mind for a long time."

Another feature of the cuttings envelope is several sheets of flowing scribble as Jeremy records interesting bits and bobs from his reading. Particularly, he checks the Penrith Herald from a hundred years ago and looks at the "50 Years Ago" column so putting us back in 1866 when George Steadman (Drybeck), Richard Wright of Longtown and William Pooley were young and flourishing. At Maulds Meaburn Steadman felled Pooley. "Then £5 further was put up and a lot of extra local dons entered" but Steadman triumphed again.

Once more the random collection of references to wrestling ancient and modern bring out the strength and enduring quality of our wrestling heritage.

In another handwritten note Jeremy tells a tale of a man beaten up outside Hexham who dragged himself to a house by the Abbey where he knocked for help, but was ignored.

*"Are there no Christians in this house?" He implored.
"No, hinny," said a voice inside, "we're all Robsons heor."
Merry Christmas.*

December 29th 2016

2016 HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND WRESTLING

NEWS UPDATES

DATES:

Wednesday January 4th - Training starts again at Carlisle Wrestling Club

Wednesday January 11th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Fifty-nine events affiliated to the Wrestling Association, and it would have been sixty in normal circumstances, but Keswick Show had a year off to recover from the ravages of Storm Desmond.



A lively group of wrestlers and supporters travelled to Brest, in Brittany, to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the FILC European wrestling championships; the Brocklebank brothers, Thomas, Graham and Ben, all won their weights at Ambleside Sports the day after their father Harry Brocklebank died; and Thomas won the last bout on the last day of the whole season to win the All Weights Championship like his father and grandfather before him.



And, for the first time there were two World Championship events for women: the 10 stones at Bellingham and the All Weights at Ambleside, both won by the same person, Connie Hodgson of Dent.

I remember when ten years ago I had to plead for a special dispensation for Connie to be allowed to compete in the Breton Backhold



Championships when, as a ten year old, she was really too young to take part according to their rules. I argued that she was a farmer's daughter from a big family, used to feeding calves and copping sheep, and wrestling with lads at Kendal Academy; and anyway her father was Trevor Hodgson. That worked and she had her first experience of international competition.

Now aged twenty, she is in her third year of a University Physical Education course based in Blackpool. In a year's time she will be a qualified teacher, making her living from sport. Already she teaches in Sedbergh, and includes wrestling for the pupils when she can.

Always a solid, well-built lass, she has latterly slimmed down significantly and continued the fitness which came from breaking her wrist while wrestling on the Kendal mats. Because of that she could no longer drive herself lazily to College. Instead, she had to walk 4½ miles to and from the bus each day to keep up her studies in Blackpool. Over three stones lighter, she went on to win at Ambleside and Bellingham..

Ambleside Chairman, Jak Hirst, commented, "The highlight of my day was seeing Connie Hodgson with her giggling face when she lifted the trophy as the very first World Champion in the Women's Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling."

For me personally, it has been a difficult year with seventeen days spent in hospital, and slow recuperation, but most heartening was the way Alf Harrington seamlessly took over writing this column for two months, and the big get well card from the wrestling at Rothbury Mart with good wishes from so many wrestlers old and new, including the Scots and Bretons. How could I not get better after that?

Happy New Year.

(Written by Roger Robson © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson, Linda Scott or Webmaster {2016})