

January 9th 2014

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK A PLACE FOR THE BRETON BACKHOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday January 15th - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points Night

"Dear Roger, I read with great interest your article of 27th December extolling the entrepreneurial endeavours of wrestlers Thomas Gibson, William Atkinson, Paul Murray and others who have taken their hard-earned winnings and invested wisely in livestock of numerous varieties rather than squander frivolously. I was disappointed not to hear my own name mentioned – though I may not be from farming background (a townie no less) I too invested my hard-earned winnings in livestock.

"In the July or August of 1987 I had a bumper weekend, winning the princely sum of £70!! I thought long and hard over a livestock investment opportunity that had come my way. I took my £70 and invested it in a rare-breed, Yorkshire fell-bred with excellent pedigree, good bones, lean with a healthy coat – excellent for breeding I thought!?"

"Well, to bring you up to date, the investment was inspired, a real thoroughbred, paying back more than the initial outlay, year after year. Low maintenance, economical, happy to be out in all weathers and the breeding was dare I say for being somewhat biased – exceptional!

"... the £70 I invested in that engagement ring in 1987 has proven the wisest truest investment a man could make – 25 years on she is still a rare breed."

When I received this message from Andrew Davidson, Under 15 years/10st Champion in 1980, I had two worries: what would his wife, Kathryn, think about being compared to a sleek, pedigree beast? And how would his English style hold up? In the late 70s I had taught him to wrestle and I was his (and her) English teacher, also. So, Andrew, I am pleased to see that you can still turn a phrase, but why so many exclamation marks? I told you never to use more than one a month....



Meanwhile, on the mats at Currock House, the younger wrestlers had their first Points Night of 2014. Matty Hodgson took a while to switch on, but then he gained some great falls. John Gibson punched above his weight again, Mark Wharton wrestled cleverly throughout, Thomas Wales showed real control and wrestling nous, and Kieran Miller, when he eventually arrived was in a class of his own. But the winner of the cup for the best performance was Abi Marston, a girl who wrestles with skill in attack and persistence in defence.

Thomas Gibson proved to be a glutton for punishment, training with the Boxing Club for an hour, before putting the mats down and wrestling in the same Currock House Gym, beating Thomas Wales in the final of the Under 15 Years.

Final arrangements for the trip to the Breton Backhold Championships need to be made this week. Darren Whitfield the Rothbury organiser is aiming to take a coach, but numbers are in the balance. Anyone wishing to take part should make contact at once.

Results

Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	J Gibson	H Alecock	M Hodgson	
7 Stone	M Wharton	J Gibson	H Alecock	M Hodgson
8½ Stone	A Marston	G Coulthard	W Wilson	M Hodgson
10 Stone	T Wales	A Marston	G Coulthard	W Wilson
Girls 8½ Stone	1, A Marston	G Coulthard		
Girls Open	1, A Marston	G Coulthard		
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	R Armstrong	J Gibson
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	T Wales	M Wharton	A Marston
Under 18 Years	K Miller	T Gibson	J Gibson	T Wales

January 16th 2014

NEWS UPDATE

TBA

When I look at the fuzzy photographs I took in the challenging light of the Currock House Gymnasium during the January Men's Points Night, I see a cold, austere scene with few people in a stark room. My memories on the other hand are of a warm night of athleticism, skill, sportsmanship and good humour. The camera does sometimes lie, or at least not show the full picture.

The list of results shows little that is unexpected, with the regular winners winning, with the exception of Richard Fox in the heavyweights who has been on top of the pile previously. His look of surprise when James Hall chested him down just as the fireworks were set to go off spoke volumes.

In the Lightweights, Andrew Carlile has had the pleasure of seeing his protégés, David and Kieran Miller, win championships last year, but in the here and now, in the first competitive wrestling of 2014, his task was to beat them on the mats. David Miller boldly went for the buttock which had given him success on the grass, but Carlile was waiting for him and felled him with a counter-twist. Kieran Miller's usual exuberance was controlled by Carlile with a strong hold and finished with a clever twist. Andrew Carlile was unbeaten in the round-robin.

John Harrington, too, went through unbeaten in the Middleweights, giving a master-class on the outside-hipe en route. He needed an extra twist to finish off Kieran Miller, but laid out David Miller so neatly that the fall was won a foot above the mat.



The Heavyweights seemed to involve a lot of hopping. Jack Ewart had John Harrington lifted high, but was unable to execute a clean hipe. Instead, he put Harrington onto one leg several times and the hopping began again until Harrington escaped and showed him how to do it. Much the same sequence took place when Richard Fox met Harrington and was unable to get rid of the hank until an extra lift and twist finished the job.

Every wrestler could take something home from the night from either the main competition or the exuberant and spontaneous wrestling which took place after the main event.

The deadline for responding to the Bretons' invitation to their Backhold Championships has arrived, and despite a slow take-up initially, there is now a party of thirty due to travel to Quimper in February. Only half the party will be wrestling, but they consist of a goodly range of age, weight and experience. Four of them are fourteen year-old girls. Darren Whitfield, the Rothbury Academy coach is the organiser, and that is reflected in the number of Northumbrian older gadgies who are travelling along. In that company for four days I may well revert to the language of my youth, full of "divvents" and "nowts" and "clarts".

Results

Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's January Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A Carlile	D Miller	K Miller	T Gibson
13Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	K Miller	D Miller
All Weights	J Hall	R Fox	J Harrington	J Ewart

January 23rd 2014

FLAG WAVING

NEWS UPDATE

TBA

I have never considered myself a collector, but over the years I have accumulated, without trying, a mass of belts, books, medals, cuttings and images all linked to wrestling. From April 1875 I have a cutting from the Illustrated London News of the big annual Good Friday wrestling event at Lilliebridge. The yellowing engraving shows a vast crowd of spectators in a distant grandstand, in the foreground a small crowd of officials with top-hats and long coats, and between both groups, two wrestlers taking hold.



According to Max Carlyle of Poulton-le-Fylde that picture contains elements that should be replicated in the modern wrestling ring. When the world was young, I used to see Max each year at Egremont Crab Fair, where he used to renew family connections and take part in the wrestling. Over the years he has maintained his interest in the sport and each year I see him at the edge of the ring at Ambleside Sports. He "receives The Cumberland News each week, always a week late, but it keeps me in touch with who is doing what in the wrestling at the shows over the year." Always a measured, thoughtful man, his opinions on the sport are always worth hearing.

He wishes to improve the clarity of the sport for spectators, and particularly the decision making by the judges and referee, and to do this he suggests that we look back to the Eighteenth Century when at Big wrestling events each wrestler was colour coded, wearing a red or green arm-band. Each judge was furnished with corresponding flags to be held aloft to indicate his decision, and the referee has coloured cloths in his hands to show the final result.

"Is this the move forward for the sport? It was good enough two hundred years ago. It will prove a more fair and transparent way of decisions to both wrestlers and spectators alike."

He lists the advantages he sees:

- 1 The MC will name wrestler and Colour.
- 2 Judges: no shouting and no talking required at all.
- 3 A judge's decision will be very easy to understand from the spectator's point of view
- 4 A wrestler will be able to immediately see a decision.
- 5 Would this old way of giving decisions not add to the atmosphere, colour, and splendour of the occasion?

"What about a trial at a small show? Max Carlyle Ltd to sponsor all costs"

Of course there are other arguments and opinions on the subject, but when an elder statesman of the sport has his say, it behoves us to listen and consider well.

January 30th 2014

TREASURE CHESTS

NEWS UPDATE

TBA

"What do you treasure?" That challenging question leaps at you from the first page of a new initiative by the Cumbrian Museum Consortium (CMS). Much of their effort over the years has been to gather and conserve artefacts, and then display a selection. Anyone who visited Tullie House recently to circle round inches away from the wonderful Crosby Garrett Roman helmet knows that role of a museum.

But how do you treasure a sport like Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling with its fleeting nature and long history. This year at soggy Torver, when the organisers arrived, they found a grassy knove with a labelled peg saying "Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling". Sawdust, poured from a sack, created the ring's dimensions; a speakers system allowed the commentator to summon wrestlers and spectators; a portable table and chairs became the administrative hub; the judges were called into the ring and skilful wrestling began in a circle of animated spectators, with the Coniston Fells in the background. Three hours later all that remained was a muddy pattern in the tramped grass.

For many years I have said that if our wrestling were a building, it would be listed and have a preservation order on it. Instead, our sport is part of a continuous local heritage which exists mainly in people's minds. On the CMS web site this element is equally valued: "A treasure could be anything that is meaningful to you. It might be a place, a story, a song or a recipe. It might be a personal memory or something of national or international significance." The latest "treasures" added to the list include rum butter, places like Derwentwater and Wasdale, haaf net fishing on the Solway.

Twice, since I began writing these columns, I have had a Tutankhamun moment when wrestling treasures were revealed. Once, in 1978 the widow of my predecessor, Bob Horsley, asked me to take away all his wrestling material, and I turned up with my estate car to a semi-detached house in Penrith. After polite chat and a cup of tea, Mrs Horsley opened the cupboards which filled the recess beside the chimney breast, and there, from top to bottom, was the detritus of a lifetime's interest in wrestling: books, photographs, framed pictures, scrapbooks full of articles and results, a stack of reporters' note books full of what looked like Arabic writing, and boxes of brown envelopes each full of details about people and topics he had researched. It was strange to find dossiers on myself and the Robsons of Longlea.



The other treasure trove moment was in a grander place, up a wide staircase into the billiard room at Levens Hall, where George Steadman's trophies were laid out on the baize. I was there with Alf Harrington, the Association Secretary, to take possession of the trophies for the Wrestling Association. Here was the biggest collection of belts and silverware accumulated by one man. As with the Horsley collection, the Steadman trophies were transferred to the Cumbria Archives at Carlisle and are available to the public on request.

Another hidden gem which focuses the ephemera of a period is the Jackson Collection in the local collection at the Lanes library, Carlisle. When I researched for [my book of documentary history of our wrestling](#), the three or four large cardboard boxes contained a wealth of information and artefacts. The daguerreotype pictures of wrestlers in the 1850s were exciting, but especially I found pleasure in finding myself with same interests and sense of humour, but a hundred years older.

February 6th 2014

WRESTLING POLITICS

NEWS UPDATE

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday, 12th February 7.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

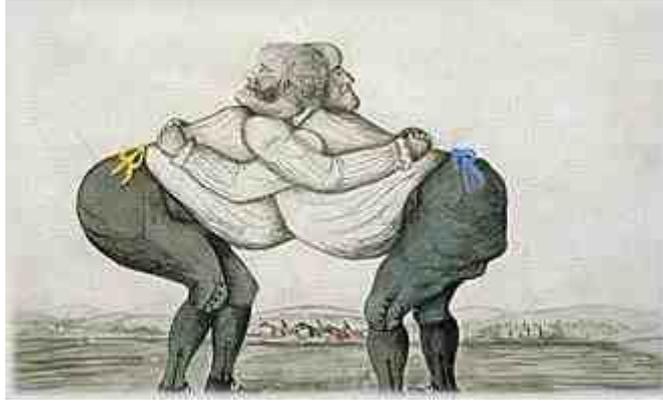
Wednesday, 19th February 8.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points Night

"Rory Stewart, the Wrestler." When I saw these words juxtaposed in the midst of an internet search, I thought that I had discovered a new facet of my local member of parliament, Mr Rory Stewart OBE MP, and wondered whether we could persuade him to join Carlisle Wrestling Club. After a better look at the punctuation and other information, it appeared that he had written a short story called "The Wrestler" about his experiences in Afghanistan for an Oxfam book, "Ox Travels" in 2011.

The wrestler in question was Parwan Aziz who had "won the Afghan national championship in 1963, gaining a broken nose, cauliflower ears, and damaged knees....His speech was composed of boasts and scandalous revelations, interrupted by grimaces provoked by his bad knees. 'I will make your project work'." Aziz was an unappointed community leader who gave crucial support to Rory Stewart's charitable Turquoise Mountain project which revitalised a run-down area of Kabul and set up a centre for the development and sale of arts and crafts.

However, the real wrestler of the title is Stewart himself, struggling with local bureaucracy, pressured by the size of the task and fighting to interest corporations and individuals to invest in the project.

Wrestling and politics rarely mix. In Cumbria we have had two long-serving County Councillors who hiped and hanked in their younger days: Bill Cameron of Maryport, forty years an elected Labour politician used to compete in his local sport, and Jim Bland, another veteran County Councillor, has represented the Lyth Valley for the Conservatives for many years. He was a champion wrestler in his youth and Chairman of the Wrestling Association's Governing Board for many years.



Other than them I can think of no other examples of political wrestlers..... except that on a wall less than four feet away from where I type this in my writer's garret, is a picture of two substantial politicians-cum-wrestlers. The water-colour is one of the oldest images of our sport, dated 1813, and entitled THE GRAND MATCH, Carlisle Races. As a wrestling print it is a failure as the arms are all wrong for the traditional hold, but as a political satire every detail is charged with significance. The three horses on the old Swifts Racecourse under the wrestlers' bellies carry the colours of the winners of the 1812 General Election in Carlisle. The wrestlers themselves have political ribbons, yellow and blue, which may "suggest that the artist is saying that although an independent MP had won the election 'race', in fact the age-old struggle between the yellows and the blues was continuing as it ever had". (Matthew Constantine).

The politics may be obscure but my picture tells me of the importance of wrestling two hundred years ago when it could be used as a metaphor for the political struggles of the time, and everyone would get the joke.

February 13th 2014

CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB JUNIOR POINTS NIGHT - FEBRUARY

NEWS UPDATE

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday, 19th February 8.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points Night

At Carlisle Wrestling Club, after the Points Night action on the mat, comes a pause before the prizes are awarded. At that point one of the coaches goes around the officials and coaches to find who was the best wrestler of the night. Usually the matter is quickly decided, but this week it took forever.



Such was the quality of the night's wrestling, there were six or seven wrestlers in the running. After much shuttle diplomacy by Andrew Carlile the decision was made that Ryan Armstrong was the best of the best, so he went home with two cups: that for the Under 12 Years and the Best Performance trophy.

In the final of the Under 12 Years, Gemma Coulthard had made a strong effort to buttock him, but he was able to react and twist her

down. Ryan has only taken up wrestling in the past year and is making excellent progress.



The night began with a close match in the final of the 6 stones, when Harvey Alecock and Matty Hodgson battled out the final. No fewer than five bouts were needed to separate them. In the first the two swung and swung each other many times before hitting the canvas in a heap which could only be a dog-fall. Harvey then struck with a lift and a twist to go ahead. My notes on the third bout say "total confusion"....another dog-fall. Then Matty evened the score, but, at last, in the fifth bout Harvey dived over his man to win the day.

Ahead of their trip to Brittany next week for their Backhold Championships, Abi Marston and Thomas Gibson were on good form: Abi won the 8½ stones and the girls classes; Thomas won both the Under 15 Years and the Under 18 Years, hiping well.

The drive home from the Club after the Points Night was through a biblical storm, and you start to wonder how high the waves and the floods may be by next Thursday when a bus-load of wrestlers heads for the Ferry at Plymouth. The Bretons are subject to the same dire weather as Cornwall and Devon, and they have had their share of flooding recently. Luckily, the host city, Quimper, is nicely inland and not on a flood-plain.

Watch this space .

Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night - February

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	H Alecock	M Hodgson	J Gibson	C Wharton
7 Stone	M Wharton	C Wharton	J Gibson	M Hodgson
8½ Stone	Marston	M Wharton	R Armstrong	G Coulthard
10 Stone	T Wales	M Wharton	R Armstrong	A Marston
Girls 8½ Stone	A Marston	G Coulthard		
Girls Open	A Marston	G Coulthard		
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	G Coulthard	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	A Marston	T Wales	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	W Wilson	T Wales	A Marston
Best Performance Trophy	R Armstrong			

February 20th 2014

CARLISLE WRESTLING MEN'S POINTS NIGHT - FEBRUARY

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, February 22nd, The Breton Backhold Championships in Quimper.

At the latest Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night, two wrestlers went through their categories without losing a single fall in the round-robin system: John Harrington dominated the 13 stones; and Richard Fox was unbeaten in his six bouts in the All Weights. The Lightweights, 11½ stones, was a different matter when all sorts of surprise results kept the spectators guessing.

Kieron Miller started well enough when he felled his brother, David, with the third buttock of a series, but then, skilled champion that he is, he went down to young Thomas Wales who had only stayed behind so that he could get a lift home. Thankfully, Miller woke up at that point, hiped Thomas Gibson to get his nerve back and then felled his coach, Andrew Carlile, with just the sort of trip that he had been well taught, a neat outside-stroke.

The end result was that a wrestle-off was needed to settle the matter and normal service was resumed with Andrew Carlile winning the day.



In the Middle Weights John Harrington dominated with his hipping, usually a well controlled right-leg outside hipe, but he did resort to a swinging hipe for David Miller. In his bout with Andrew Carlile his cosy routine was shattered and there was a closely fought, intense bout where hold was important with the hank and leg-up buttock setting the two wrestlers straining against each other until Harrington's leg-up prevailed.

Despite his dominance in the middleweights John Harrington was up against it in the All Weights where there was significantly greater tonnage in the entry. Heaviest of all is Jimmy Hall who knows how to use his physical advantage with some shrewd and powerful hipes, but Richard Fox had his measure and worked hard to gain position to buttock the bigger wrestler.

One of the best, and noisiest, bouts of the night was the very last one when the main places had already been decided. John Harrington and the tall Jack Ewart had to wrestle-off for third and fourth place. They ripped into each other with desperate energy and ricocheted round the walls of the Gym before Ewart won with a leg-up cum buttock.

Some of the young wrestlers at training will be off to Brittany for the week-end to participate in the Breton Backhold Championships. Abi Marston, Thomas Gibson and Thomas Wales will join a bus from Rothbury Academy to travel via Plymouth to Quimper.



Almost thirty of us will be the guests of the Bretons, who come each year to enhance our wrestling in its busiest week at the end of August. Long gone are the days when the Bretons were seen as problems with their unpronounceable names and strange ways. For years they have boosted our wrestling and made themselves as natural a part of our Northern heritage as Herdwick sheep and rum butter.

Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night - February

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A Carlile	K Miller	D Miller	T Gibson
13 Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	K Miller	D Miller
All Weights	R Fox	J Hall	J Ewart	J Harrington

February 27th 2014

THE BRETON BACKHOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN QUIMPER, FRANCE

NEWS UPDATE

TBA
A coach-load of wrestlers and supporters made the long journey from Rothbury and Carlisle to the Breton city of Quimper on the West coast of France for a festival of wrestling, the Breton Backhold Championships. Wrestlers from Scotland, Poland and Sardinia also took part, but the mass of entrants came from the Gouren clubs scattered round Brittany.

In a large Sports Hall four wrestling mats were simultaneously occupied by bouts for several hours to reach a conclusion. The first half of the day was given over to youngsters wrestling and we supplied four of the champions: Lucy Singer (Girls 68kg+), Thomas Wales (56kg), Joe Hale (62kg) and Thomas Gibson (68kg+).



Thomas Wales who does most of his wrestling at the agricultural shows in the Carlisle region has been sticking in well at Carlisle Wrestling Club this Winter and the improvement to his performance is obvious to see. He lost a close bout early on in the competition, but he did well enough in the pool stage to reach the finals. In the actual final he had a torrid time early on and after four bouts he was two-one behind, and teetering towards defeat. In the end, in the sixth bout, he rushed his man forward to win. Thomas Gibson in the heaviest of the boys categories made short shrift of his opponent, for the lad fell badly after the first bout of the final and was unable to continue. Lucy Singer, in the equivalent category for girls, was head and shoulders below the opposition, including her compatriot, Freya Waddington in the final, but hustled her way to a fine win. Joe Hale was the best of them all technically and was a credit to his coaches, Darren Whitfield and Jason Davidson.



In the Senior events Andrew Sandercock was part of an international melange on the winners' podium in the 90kg category. Ahead of him were Frazer Hirsh and the winner, the Breton Irwin Villette. The final category to be decided was the 90kg+, the Heavyweights, and that proved to be a long hard battle between the Scot, Ryan Dolan, and the Northumbrian, Andrew Ord. Dolan took the first with a late twist; Ord equalised by back-heeling the hip; Dolan then hiped the hip; Ord equalised with another back-heel; and finally, Andrew Ord resorted to the lock-hip and cleanly felled his man to win the Breton title. At that point Ord rested on his laurels, but Ryan Dolan entered for the Open Weight competition which concluded the action, and won the final against Irwin Villette in straight falls with back-heels and a hip.

All that was left then was to enjoy the liberal hospitality of the Quimper club in the evening and then travel back the many miles by road and ferry to arrive back in the North of England in the "wee sma' oors"; for me 4am at Southwaite Services. Darren Whitfield, the Rothbury organiser, needs a big thanks from all concerned.

March 6th 2014

'A ROSE BETWEEN THORNS' AT THE BACKHOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN QUIMPER, FRANCE

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday, 12 March (7.30pm) - Carlisle Wrestling Club Final Junior Points
Wednesday, 19th March (8.45pm) - Carlisle Wrestling Club Final Senior Points
Saturday, 22nd March - Waberthwaite Academy Open Night
Saturday, 5th April - Academy Shield at Burnieside Cricket Club.
Sunday April 13th - Angus Backhold Championships, Carnoustie
April 24th - 26th - IFCW European Youth and Female Championships in Leon, Northern Spain.



At the recent Breton Backhold Wrestling Championships, Linda Scott was a woman on her own in the midst of a regiment of male officials. Lots of other women ran the event, the table and the commentating, but when all the referees and judges had held their meeting to standardise their officiating, and sat down for a photograph, Linda, from Southwaite, Carlisle, was the only female amongst two dozen men. When the action started she was not just a judge with a comparatively passive role, but the referee in charge of the bouts.

Guy Jaouen, who was the main instigator of the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling in 1985, looked on a while and adjudged her "très professionnelle". She was there on merit and totally accepted.



She was not always so professional, for I remember many years ago asking her and Irene Reay to keep a note of the falls in a championship at Haltwhistle, when I was called on to judge and therefore unable to make my notes as all good journalists should. One fall in the final was recorded as "a pushy down sort of thing".

From those early days helping on the ringside table, her competence and influence in Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling gently grew, through attending Governing Board meetings as an Honorary auditor, taking responsibility for running important events, using her skills in graphic design to provide booklets and publicity for the club, and eventually refereeing events. She and her partner, Julian Richardson furnish many of the photographs in the annual CD. Last year she was elected Chairman of the Governing Board and keeps a firm but gentle hand on proceedings.

As the grass starts to grow, and the indoor wrestling season moves to an end, there are various events to tempt the wrestlers to try their skills and muscles before the season proper begins in May. All these events call for some distant travelling.

Waberthwaite Academy which is usually in a world of its own down in West Cumbria, invites the rest of the wrestling world to pie and peas, lots of wrestling action, and plenty of craic on the 22nd March.

Kendal Academy hosts the Academy Shield on Saturday, April 5th so teams should be under selection now.

Frazer Hirsch's Carnoustie wrestling club is host to the Angus Backhold Championships on the 13th April, and furthest of all is ...

The IFCW Youth and Female European Championships in Leon, Northern Spain, on the last weekend of April. We have young wrestlers fit to compete, but as yet nothing has been organised.

March 13th 2014

JUNIOR WINTER INDOOR SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday, 19th March (8.45pm) - Carlisle Wrestling Club Final Senior Points

Saturday, 22nd March - Waberthwaite Academy Open Night

Saturday, 5th April - Academy Shield at Burnieside Cricket Club.

Sunday April 13th - Angus Backhold Championships, Carnoustie

April 24th - 26th - IFCW European Youth and Female Championships in Leon, Northern Spain.

Carlisle Wrestling Club held its last Junior Points Night of the winter this week, and the destination of the annual trophies was finally decided. In several categories wrestlers had built up unassailable leads, but the night began with a section where any one of three wrestlers, John Gibson, Matty Hodgson and Harvey Alecock, were in contention. Harvey Alecock had been a slow starter this winter, but he kept on improving to the point where he won the February 6st section and continued his improved form this week. He was helped by Matty Hodgson when he felled the John Gibson. In the final Alecock buttocked Hodgson and then went on to win a deciding fall. The scores were so close that if Hodgson had managed to win one more fall there would have been a three way tie. The Under 12 year was another nail-biting category with Mark Wharton and Gemma Coulthard equal on points at the start of the night. Fittingly, they met in the final, where Mark Wharton's purposeful skills won the day. The Under 18s, too, had a late twist in its progression, with Thomas Gibson benefiting from Kieran Miller's absence to win the overall trophy.

All the other categories were more or less decided already by the previous Points Nights. Mark Wharton could even afford to be weighed out of the 7 stones on the night and yet still win the overall trophy.



Best of all on the night was Abi Marston who won three sections and was a spirited contestant in other categories. For that she was awarded the Best Performance Cup. She is the real deal as far as wrestling is concerned, and interestingly she has ambitions to be a PE teacher.

The fragility of our traditional sports depends greatly on dedicated individuals who freely give of their time to organise and develop our sports. This is especially apparent this week when The Lakeland Sports Promoters Association looks like folding because no-one can be found to take the key role as organising secretary. Originally set up in the early 1970s to protect Lakeland Sports from the hawkish amateurism of some athletics organisers who set out to bar any competitor who took part in traditional Lakeland Sports meetings, such as Grasmere, Ambleside and Egremont Crab Fair, the LSPA has been kept alive by the long persistence of John Morgan as secretary, and latterly by Mark Maglincy. Now Mark has had to resign because of other commitments and the LSPA looks like folding if another secretary is not found.

Wrestling too depends on a few dedicated individuals. Attendance at the European Youth Championships in Leon, Spain, is now unlikely simply because the three most likely coaches to prepare a team are all heavily committed to work or family duties which have to be their priority. Three of our academies have teams of supporters and organisers, but the continued existence of the academies at Milnthorpe and Waberthwaite depends heavily on David Parsons and Tom Porter who keep them going year by year. Waberthwaite Academy's Open Night next week will showcase the skills and keenness of their young wrestlers, but for the rest of the winter they flourish unheeded in West Cumbria thanks to the organising skills, and persistence, of Tom Porter.

Carlisle Wrestling Club Final Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Overall Trophy Winners
6 Stone	Alecock	M Hodgson	J Gibson	C Wharton	H Alecock
7 Stone	J Gibson	C Wharton	H Alecock	B Irving	M Wharton
8½ Stone	A Marston	M Wharton	R Armstrong	W Wilson.	
10 Stone	T Wales	A Marston	B Irving	M Wharton	T Wales
Girls 8½ Stone					A Marston
Girls Open	A Marston	G Coulthard			A Marston

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Overall Trophy Winners
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	R Armstrong	C Wharton	M Wharton
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	M Wharton	T Wales	J Gibson	T Gibson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	P Gardner	A Marston	T Wales	T Gibson
Best Performance Trophy	A. Marston				

March 20th 2014

SENIOR WINTER INDOOR SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, 22nd March - Waberthwaite Academy Open Night

Saturday, 5th April - Academy Shield at Burnieside Cricket Club.

"You see as good wrestling here as you see anywhere" Carlisle Coach, Alan Jones, not noted for verbal flannel, was frustrated as he sat at a table organising the round-robin bouts for the Final Points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club in the Currock House Gym. He just wanted to watch the ebb and flow of the action on the mat without puzzling over the order of the bouts. I, too, should have been working, taking photographs of the action, but that would have interfered with my delight in the skills and athleticism that lay before me.

The irony was that the Men's Points Competition for the winter months of 2013-14 was already decided in the five monthly sessions played out from October onwards. David Miller had an unassailable lead in the lightweights and John Harrington had dropped only one point in five sessions. Only in the All Weights was it theoretically possible for the leader, Richard Fox to be caught, and then only if he were completely absent and Jimmy Hall were to win. As it was, he was very much present and notched up another success.

A "dead rubber" in sport is a byword for boring, pointless action in a competition which is already decided. In the Davis cup the final tennis matches are sometimes not even played if one team already has a decisive lead. In the Currock House Gym we saw the opposite effect where wrestlers were liberated by the lack of tension: there was no money involved and the trophies were already won so the competitors expressed themselves and enjoyed the wrestling for its own sake.

Jack Brown was unbeaten in the 11½ stones round-robin, mainly with his hipes, but for the connoisseur Andrew Carlile's prolonged survival and escapes under pressure, before being felled by Brown and then by David Miller were the highlight. Then Carlile moved from valiant loser to skilled winner in the 13 stones. He set his stall out in the first bout when he simply back-heeled John Harrington, and then finished the job off many bouts later when he again back-heeled Harrington in the wrestle-off for first place.



David Miller, too, had some stellar moments. Best of all was when he leg-up buttocked Jack Brown despite the disparity in height, but closely followed by his full buttock of Paul Murray.

Richard Fox and Jimmy Hall led the pack in the All Weights, but Jack Ewart buttocked Fox, and Jack Brown, the lightweight felled Hall, the heavyweight.

Amongst all this feast of wrestling the best of all was John Harrington. He was not a winner on the night, and some of his best wrestling came in the wrestle-offs for third place in the All Weights, but by far the greatest amount of spontaneous applause was for his perfect execution of a range of wrestling skills: hipes inside, outside and swinging; leg-up buttock; outside-stroke and two glorious hanks.

The Points Trophies, both Junior and Senior will be presented next week at 8.45pm during the club night. Two extra sessions have been added to the club's programme for the 26th March and the 2nd April. The Young Farmers training up for the North Cumbria YFC Field Day will have the opportunity of detailed coaching on these nights. The presence of wrestling on the Field Day programme is excellent for our indigenous sport, but the Carlisle club sessions have been somewhat swamped latterly. These two extra sessions will be perfect for harnessing the power of the young farmers, male and female, as they prepare for action.

Peter Sheldon has written from Cornwall to "enquire if it would be possible for a team of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestlers to join our Cornish Wrestlers for our demonstrations at the Royal Cornwall Show which takes place on the 5,6 and 7th June. This is an initial enquiry because we do not yet have the approval of the RCS organisers, though they have welcomed similar arrangements at recent shows. If all is well and a team of 2,3 or 4 wrestlers, with someone to give a commentary, could come for the three days of the show, we would cover all reasonable travelling and living expenses."

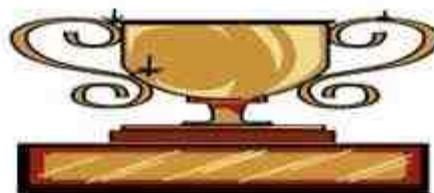
WABERTHWAITE ACADEMY OPEN CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND WRESTLING.

WABERTHWAITE SAT. 22nd MARCH 7.30PM.

- **Open Competitions:-**
- Under 9,12,13,16,18.Years. Girls/Ladies TBA
- Weights,Under 5, 7, 9, 11 Stone.
13 Stone BNFL Trophy & AW
- **Smartest Traditional Costume.**
- Pie & Pea Supper £4.00 Wrestlers Free
- Entrance £5.00.Wrestlers FREE
- Raffle.

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CHAMPION

Carlisle Wrestling Club Final Senior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Overall Trophy Winners
11½ Stone	J Brown	D Miller	A Carlile	P Murray	D Miller
13 Stone	A Carlile	J Harrington	J Brown	D Miller.	J Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	J Hall	J Harrington	J Ewart.	Richard Fox

March 27th 2014

WABERTHWAITE WRESTLING ACADEMY OPEN NIGHT

NEWS UPDATE

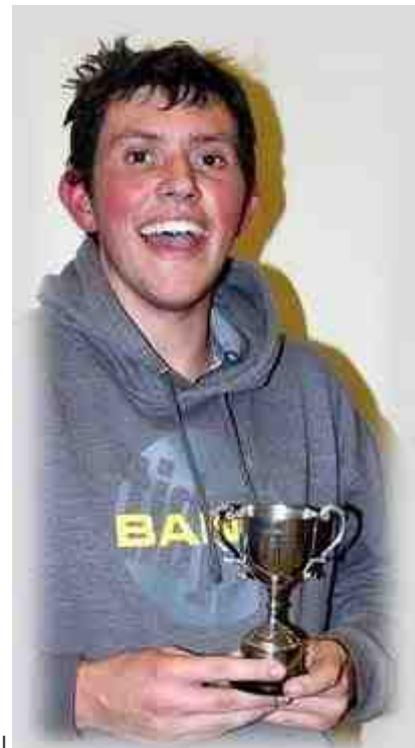
Saturday, 5th April - Academy Shield at Burnieside Cricket Club.

Sunday, April 13th - Angus Backhold Championship, Carnoustie Leisure Centre. Many categories male and female at under 15 years, and at 16 years and over

Waberthwaite Academy Open Night was a great success: in the hall not a seat was spare before the action started; forty-three wrestlers competed, many in the traditional strip; three hours of intense wrestling kept the crowd engrossed; the average age of the referees doubled when John Wilson took over for the final stint; a £2000 grant for more wrestling mats was announced; and the pies and mushy peas were excellent. Tom Porter, the main organiser at the academy, seems to have been around forever, but his club is bouncing with youth and energy.

Wrestlers from Carlisle, Kendal and Milnthorpe all made their way to the far west of Cumbria to compete in twelve different categories and the spoils were well spread out, though the Wilson surname, mainly from Kendal Academy was well to the fore in many sections.

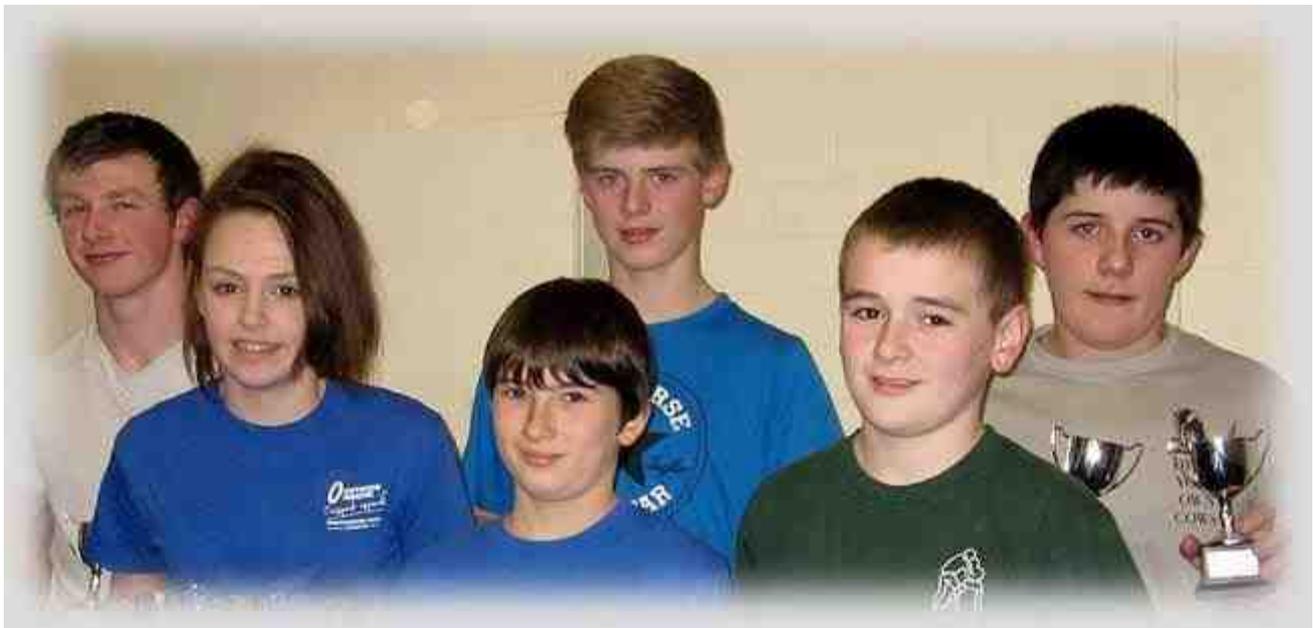
Sam Wilson wrestled in three categories before winning the 12st BNFL trophy with his hanks and inside-clicks. His cousin George was head and shoulders above the opposition in the Under 16s, but Sam did take the middle fall with speed, hold and attack.



Jack Ewart and his Carlisle Academy team-mate Jimmy Hall, had a long, but convivial wait before being called into action. Inevitably they met in the final. Jimmy Hall had returned from a long day rallying in the Borders. His route to the final was arduous with close bouts where he had to come from behind. In the semi-final, local wrestler Craig Naylor from Wasdale caught him with a swift buttock for the middle fall. Jack Ewart in the meantime was using his height and strength to hipe the 10st winner Andrew Woodend.

Jimmy Hall and Jack Ewart are the sort of lads you want to have around when there is heavy lifting to do, and Hall went straight into action with a lift and a backover twist. The wrestling mat and the village hall seemed very small with those two big lads bulldozing around, and, after much huffing and puffing, Ewart struck back by turning a defensive hank into an attacking position when he slipped over Hall's right leg and back-heeled him. In the end, Jimmy Hall's long day and accumulating tough bouts were too much for him and Ewart secured the deciding fall.

The Waberthwaite Academy has a plethora of good lads and it is no wonder that they have a star wrestler in Michael Kirkham, the Under 15/8st champion, who duly won the 8 stones.



The signs are that next week's Academy Shield at Burnieside Cricket Club, Kendal, will be a close fought and intense affair.

Waberthwaite Open Night

Category	Winners
Under 10 Years	Thomas Wilson
Under 12 Years	Harry Wilson
Under 14 Years	David Bright
Under 16 Years	George Wilson
Under 18 Years	Dylan Fleming
5 Stone	Jay Connor
7 Stone	Jackson Southward
8 Stone	Michael Kirkham
10 Stone	Andrew Woodend
12 Stone	Sam Wilson;
All Weights	Jack Ewart;
Ladies Open	Lynn Murray

April 3rd 2014

CHANGES TO THE CWWA GOVERNING BOARD

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, 5th April - Academy Shield at Burnieside Cricket Club -
7pm Registration - Open classes before and after the main event.

Sunday, April 13th - Angus Backhold Championship, Carnoustie Leisure Centre. Many categories male and female at under 15 years, and at 16 years and over

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling's Governing Board lost many years of experience when three of its farming elder statesmen retired this year at the Annual General Meeting. Between them Alan Coulthard, Henry Hail and Robert Carter had served 89 years.

When Henry Hail joined the Board in 1998 he forged a link with West Cumbria from the times of the Academy boom in the Post War era when he was a stalwart of Gosforth Academy.

I remember Alan Coulthard from the 1950s, when he was a top lightweight, and Ted Dunglinson organised impromptu training for innocent me and savvy him after the wrestling at Yetholm Show. He won the 10½st, 11st and 12st championships in the late fifties, and in 1966 he shocked the wrestling world by coming out of retirement to take the All Weights Championship. Originally wrestling from Laversdale, he farmed at Justicetown between Carlisle and Longtown. In 1998 he joined the Board and served as President

from 2008 to 2011.



Longest serving of all was Robert Carter of Gerrard House who joined the Board in 1963. He held the 11st Championship in 1949 and the 12st in 1950. A keen stockman, he was noted for his Simmental cattle and Suffolk sheep. He became a noted judge in all areas of interest. He judged many an All Weights Championship and travelled widely to judge cattle. From 1971 to 2003 he was Chairman of the Governing Board.

Their replacements are a different breed, although Darren Whitfield is in the old mould of champion wrestler becoming a steward of the sport. In his youth he was a regular winner of the 14st Championship; more recently he became Heavyweight Champion. For some years he has been the wrestlers' representative on the Board, but he is now retired and moved on to being a regular Board member. His place as the wrestlers' voice has been taken by Andrew Carlile.

The other two new Board members come to wrestling from a different slant. Neither Gary Lothian of Langwathby nor Paul Barber of Acomb, near Hexham, has ever wrestled. Instead, they have keenly followed the sport over several years and bring other skills to the table. Paul Barber is a protégé of Peter Hunter who has tutored him year by year to take over the running of the events on the wrestling calendar for which he is responsible



Gary Lothian is a businessman who runs his own electrical firm. A year ago, I wrote an article about wrestling's "super-fans" and said: "Gary Lothian from the Penrith area admits to having been "crackers" about wrestling for nearly forty years. A relative of the Lee family from Abbeytown, he sadly admits that "Mam wouldn't let me wrestle", but as soon as he could drive he followed the sport everywhere.

Two years ago he even used Grasmere Sports as the launch pad for his marriage to Carol his partner for fifteen years. In the car park, as they arrived, instead of getting out the wellies, he produced an engagement ring, a bottle of bubbly, and a romantic proposal. Later in the day we all knew about it when the wrestling commentator took a rest from talk of hipes and buttocks, and told the assembled crowd about the shenanigans in the car park.

We also have a new President, Joe Harrington, who farms at Bewaldeth. His championship credentials are spectacular, but perhaps more important is his sustained keenness over the years. He travels widely to many events, whether or not his son, John Harrington, is competing. Joe's brother Tom steps in as Vice-President.

April 10th 2014

ACADEMY SHIELD RESULTS 2013 - 2014

NEWS UPDATE

Sunday, April 13th - Angus Backhold Championship, Carnoustie Leisure Centre. Many categories male and female at under 15 years, and at 16 years and over

Saturday, April 26th - 7.30pm Kendal Academy Open Night in Grayrigg Village Hall, U13 / U15 / U18 / **Girls 10, Open, 5st (mixed). Males 7, 9, 11, 13, AW - Pies and peas and a big raffle.**

The Academy Shield brings the wrestling world (Cumberland and Westmorland Style) together like no other competition. The five Academies - Carlisle, Kendal, Milnthorpe, Rothbury and Waberthwaite – all foregathered at Burneside Cricket Club to decide the destination of the Shield for 2013-2014. In its original form after the Second World War a full Winter with a league was needed, with matches home and away, and buses laid on for the teams and supporters. By all accounts wrestling has never been so intense and partisan with the roofs of several village halls in jeopardy from the noise.

Since its renewal in the seventies a different system was put in place so that the result reflected the whole of the academy, young and old, tiny and massive, male and female, and did not just rely on the star men wrestlers and manipulating the draw.



After eight of the thirteen categories had been completed Waberthwaite was in the lead after a stellar performance by Michael Kirkham in two sections and a solid effort by the rest. In the end their threat faded because they lacked heavier wrestlers, and Kendal eased ahead with a series of bouts where their wrestlers dropped only one fall each in some tight wrestling. With only the All Weights round-robin (10 bouts) to go Kendal lay two falls ahead of the opposition and Rothbury had three times All Weights Champion Andrew Ord as their man.

Never has Carlisle wrestler, Jimmy Hall, had such support from a Kendal crowd as when he faced up to Ord in the first bout. All to no avail, for Ord kept his cool and his controlled hiping to fell Hall and everyone else. The Academy Shield was a draw with Kendal and Rothbury tied on 33 falls, while Carlisle and Waberthwaite tied for third place with 24 falls each. The wrestlers of the smallest academy, Milnthorpe, all did well individually, but were not represented in four categories.



Jack Brown and Donna Thompson for Carlisle won all their bouts, as did James Hayhurst for Kendal, and Thomas Davidson, Jack Hale and Andrew Ord for Rothbury. But, the best individual performance went to Michael Kirkham of Waberthwaite who competed unbeaten in the 8st and 9st categories. He has developed his own style of swirling twisting action which stands out from the crowd.

The overall winner was really wrestling itself, for the attacking and skilful style now prevalent is a credit to the coaches of all five academies.

ACADEMY SHIELD 2013

Event	First Equal	3rd Equal	Fifth
RESULTS	Kendal and Rothbury - 33pts	Carlisle and Waberthwaite - 24pts	Milnthorpe - 16pts

Categories

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	T Wilson	J Penellum	
Girls	F Waddington,	A Marston	L Singer
Women	D Thompson	A Marston	H Hodgson
Under 16 Years	G Wilson	T Gibson	T Wales
13 Stone	B Brocklebank,	S Wilsom;	J Hayhurst

Event	First	Second	Third
All Weights	J Hale	M Atkinson	J Hayhurst

The CWWA World Championship venues were allocated last week.
The first being the 12 stones at Hethersgill on Sunday 4th May.
(Full details next week)

April 16th 2014

CWWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS 2014

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, April 26th - 7.30pm Kendal Academy Open Night in Grayrigg Village Hall, U13 / U15 / U18 / **Girls 10, Open, 5st (mixed)**. Males 7, 9, 11, 13, AW - Pies and peas and a big raffle.

Sunday May 4th - Hethersgill Vintage Rally

All Weights - Stanhope Show Saturday, 13th Sept.

15st - Rothbury Mart Friday, 5th Sept.

14st - Gilsland Show Sunday, 3rd August

13st - Westmorland Show Thursday, 11th Sept.

12st - Hethersgill Vintage Rally Sunday, 4th May

11st - Powburn Show Saturday, 2nd August

10½st - Gosforth Show Saturday 16th August

Under 18 Years - Northumberland Show Monday, 26th May

Under 18 Years/10st - Killington Sports Thursday, 29th May

Under 15 Years - Penrith Show Saturday, 26th July

Under 15 Years/8st - Eskdale Show Saturday, 27th Sept.



In a ringing phrase from its first rule book in 1906, the Wrestling Association declared that C & W wrestling is "open to the world", and that continues to be the case. The CWWA World Championships were allocated recently by the Governing Board, to events which range from the huge agricultural shows like the Northumberland and the Westmorland Shows, to more local shows like Powburn and Eskdale, a traditional Sports Meeting at Killington and, to set the ball rolling, the vast Hethersgill Vintage Rally in a fortnight's time.

The location of the events also reflects the distribution of wrestling events through the Northern Counties, with one in County Durham, three in Northumberland, three in north of Cumbria and two each in the south and far west of the county.

Gilsland Show is making a special effort this year for its centenary and kept away from championship applications in recent years to further their chances in this important landmark year for them. In 1951 the final of the first 14st Championship was contested at the show by two members of the Gilsland Academy: J. E. Dungleinson of Brunstock felled J. N. Armstrong of Triermain to take home the championship belt "presented by Prof. Jack Robinson, Johannesburg, in memory of the original holder of the belt, his father Jack

Robinson of Cockermouth and Newcastle." Gilsland Show is held on land at Triermain and Reggie Armstrong who won the belt in 1954 will be there to watch the action in his backyard.

The All Weights Championship takes a rare trip to County Durham, to Stanhope Show in Weardale. You can still hear from enthusiasts like Maurice Rutherford about the Weardale Academy which met at Cowshill fifty years ago, but the wrestling events are a small residue of former glories. However, Stanhope Show and Wolsingham continue to do the sport proud by sustaining their events.

The Academy at Waberthwaite which is so healthy at the moment must be happy to land two championships in their area which are particularly suited to their young lightweight wrestlers: Gosforth Show for the 10½ stones and Eskdale for the Under 15/8st Championship.

First of all though is the 12st Championship at Hethersgill Vintage Rally at Carlisle Airport.....Action Stations!

April 24th 2014

ONCE UPON A TIME

NEWS UPDATE

Friday 25th April, 7.30pm Referees and Judges meeting at Carlisle Rugby Club

Saturday, 26th April, 7.30pm Kendal academy Open Night in Grayrigg Village Hall, U13 / U15 / U18 / Girls 10, Open, 5st (mixed), Males 7 , 9 , 11 , 13 , AW Pies and peas and a big raffle.

Sunday 4th May (1.00) Hethersgill Vintage Club, Carlisle Airport U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies Open / 12st Championship / AW.



Once upon a time the main discussion about Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling refereeing took place in the middle of the ring amongst the three officials when there was a close bout, or in the crowd on the fringes where men with remarkable eyesight felt free to put them right. Now, inexorably, year by year, the rules have tightened and gained in logic. Now, the referee is not allowed to over-rule the two judges if they are agreed on a decision. Before an event starts the referee is responsible for checking the safety of the ring. The rules concerning the initial "tekkin hod" have been transformed and then tightened further.

And, perhaps most important of all, there is an annual workshop meeting of referees and judges to ensure that the rules are consistently applied. The meeting serves to remind officials what the written rules are and gives them the chance to comment on issues which arose last season. That meeting is tonight at Carlisle Rugby Club at 7.30pm and next weekend the season begins with the wrestling at Carlisle Airport when Hethersgill Vintage Club fills the air with steam and noise of engines.

The noise was indoors recently when nine wrestlers from Rothbury and their coaches had an early morning getaway to reach the 10am weigh-in for the Angus Backhold Championships at Frazer Hirsch's Carnoustie Club. Rothbury dominated the middle boys' weights with wins for Thomas Davidson, Harry Bertram and Cade Whitfield.

Thomas Davidson has one of the best pedigrees in wrestling, with father Jason, granddad Kenny, and other close forebears, Alan and Geordie Davidson all champions in wrestling, running and jumping. He came to notice at the recent Academy Shield where he was unbeaten in his category, and at Carnoustie won his class and wrestled up in the next event.

In the lightweights and the men's events they had to be content with places after some top level wrestling. Joe Hale was beaten



three falls to two by a newcomer to the sport, Ryan Ferrey from Hamilton, who also happens to be a regular in the Scottish Judo team. Joe's big brother, Jack met the tall RyanDolan. Organiser, Frazer Hirsch commented that he thought *"it was going to be a very close contest but Jack used the wrong tactics trying to swinging hype the 6½ foot giant, Dolan easily riding them and hiping Hale once he had landed."*

Not many female wrestlers are called "Fred", but a Breton wrestler Frédérique Menesguen, who has done her stint of camping in my paddock during a past wrestling season was on a family holiday in Scotland and called in to take the top female honours.

May 1st 2014

A WEEKEND OF SOCIAL OCCASIONS

NEWS UPDATE

Sunday May 4th - 1.00pm Hethersgill Vintage Rally U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies Open / 12st Championship / AW.

Wrestling provided my social life last week-end: Friday, a referees meeting; Saturday, Kendal Academy's Open Night; and Sunday was Cyril and Doreen Bragg's diamond wedding celebration. Three very different events, but each demonstrating important threads of the wrestling pattern.

The referees' meeting hidden away in a back room at Carlisle Rugby Club was all that it should be with a comprehensive review of the rules that control referees and judges in our sport. The mood was affable, at times impassioned. Minutiae were scrutinised and important issues raised. But looking back at it, the thought that leaps out at me is the commitment of so many people, for it was a well attended meeting, who had travelled from Northumberland and Kendal and West Cumbria to take part. The cost of the meeting was limited to the hire charge for the room, as not a whiff of travelling expenses or any other compensation was in the air. Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling depends on goodwill, time and commitment; a professional sport run in the best amateur spirit.

At Kendal Academy Open Night, the real focus of our wrestling was on display: the wrestlers. The categories began at under 5 stones and finished with two Williams contesting the final of the All Weights. William Atkinson made his way to the final by felling James Hayhurst with a right-leg outside-stroke, a bout where they visited the bar before being stopped, and then another outside stroke to reach the final with William Hayhurst. Earlier William Atkinson had won the Under 18s with one of the falls of the night, when he twisted James Hayhurst, reached a point of balance and then finished emphatically with a cross.



Not only was there a good night of sport, but the dynastic nature of the sport was there to be seen. There were plenty of good lads new to wrestling, but there was also young Nathan Bland, great-grandson of Gilpin Bland winning the five stones. The Hayhurst family were main movers in the opening of Kendal Academy in the 1950s and years later Peter was on the mike and his grandsons starring on the mat. And then there were the Wilsons and the Hodgsons.

More than fifty years ago, a long way from my Northumbrian home, I was bamboozled and felled in a muddy field at Aikton by Cyril Bragg, the only time we ever met in the ring. Last Sunday, along with many wrestling friends, we were part of Cyril and Doreen's Diamond wedding celebrations. As a triple champion he was a lightweight force to be reckoned with all those years ago, and after he stopped wrestling he gave decades in service as judge, Board Member, and President of the Association.

Doreen took on a more reserved role at the table at the edge of the ring, making sure that events ran smoothly and fairly. The wrestling community sustains an element of the traditional heritage of the area, an ephemeral human element to add to the enduring beauty of Lakeland.

Occasionally, the rest of the world is privileged to glimpse our world, and tonight a television programme on ITV at 8pm follows actor Warwick Davis and his family take part in the wrestling at Torver amidst the Coniston Fells.



Kendal Academy Open Night

Event	First	Second	Third
5 Stone	N Bland	T Jamieson	M Stainton
7 Stone	Harker	K Harrison	J Guy
9 Stone	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson	K Harrison
Girls 10 Stone	O Wilson	R Hodgson.	
Ladies Open	H Hodgson	O Wilson	R Hodgson
Under 13 Years	H Wilson	J Harker	K Harrison
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	J Wilson
Under 18 Years	W Atkinson	J Hayhurst	G Wilson
11 Stone	S Wilson	J Wilson	A Miles
13 Stone	J Hayhurst	A Miles	S Wilson
All Weights	W Atkinson	W Hayhurst	M Atkinson

May 8th 2014

THE 12 STONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AT HETHERSGILL VINTAGE RALLY

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, 17th May (2pm) Sedbergh Gala U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 13 / AW

Monday, 26th May Northumberland County Show

Thursday, 29th May Killington Sports U18 / **10st World Championship.**

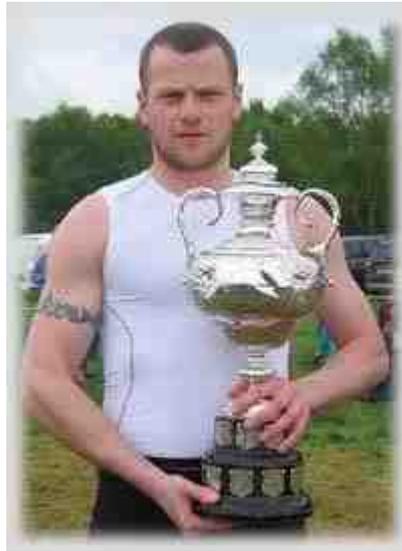


Avoirdupois gained the first fall in the 12st World Championship when the holder, Ben Brocklebank, did not defend his title as he was too heavy, so the wrestlers had an extra spur to win. Immediately, the action began with two strong contenders, Andrew Carlile and John Harrington, in contention, and Carlile's back-heels sent Harrington backwards and out. The main hope of south Cumbria was James Hayhurst who, at a young age has already held two senior titles, but his usual impeccable defence was missing when David Miller of Aspatria, the 10½st Champion set about him with strong attacks, winning the first with a twist and the second with a full out buttock.

In the semi-final Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge used his height to good effect when he inside-hipped David Miller. Andrew Carlile, on the other side of the draw, right-side buttocked the other Miller brother, Kieron.



This set up an intriguing final between mentor and pupil. For many years Jack Brown has benefited from the coaching skills of multi-champion, Andrew Carlile, who is one of the triumvirate of champions who are honing the next generation of wrestlers. Last year it seemed that Brown was at a level beyond Carlile, but in this first senior competition of 2014, Carlile showed renewed purpose and power. The first fall was a close twisting-to-the-ground affair, but the final fall could not have been more conclusive. As the referee shouted, "Wrestle", Carlile swirled round with a clockwise twist and outside stroke that gave Brown no chance to counter.



Andrew Carlile with his smart new strip was the first Champion of 2014.

The winner of the first wrestling of the year was Thomas Davidson in the Under 12 Years. He had travelled over from Rothbury with his dad and other wrestlers, and continued the good form that he has shown indoors recently. His dad, Jason Davidson, was also on good form in the All Weights, especially against the new champion, when he won with finesse rather than weight and power. A neat right-side outside-stroke, which collapsed Carlile to the grass, took the first fall in the semi-final, and a double-barrelled hipe and Cross-buttock took the second.

In the final, though, Davidson came up against the power and determination of Richard Fox on home territory. Fox won the first with a right-leg back-heel, and the second with the inevitable buttock.

Hethersgill Vintage Rally

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Davidson,	,J Gibson	C Wharton
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	T Hayhurst	H Bertram
Under 18 Years	K Miller	J Hayhurst	T Gibson
Girls	A Marston	Z Marston	
12 Stone World Championship	A Carlile	J Brown	K Miller
All Weights	R Fox	J Davidson	A Carlile

May 15th 2014

THE TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF MAINTAINING LONG STANDING TRADITIONS

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, 17th May (2pm) Sedbergh Gala U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 13 / AW

Monday, 26th May (1.30) Northumberland County Show U10 / U12 / U14 / U18 World Championship / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13½st / 14st / AW

Thursday, 29th May (6.45) Killington Sports U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 & 10st World Championship / U21 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW



Lack of money can affect Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling, but rain is worse. Even long-established hugely popular events can go under after a run of rainy years. Keswick Sports was one of the biggest events to hold wrestling, and for a century it was a major Lakeland sports meeting, but it was finished by an unlucky succession of rainy days in the 1960s.



Wolsingham Show recently has had an unlucky series of wet years, and last year they were further hit by erroneous Facebook reports that the event was cancelled. This year the wrestling and other events at the two-day show have had to trim their costs, so there is one less men's categories, and no fourth place prize money. But the show goes on.

Borrowdale, hit by rain last year, will no longer have wrestling this year as they seek to return nearer to the roots of the event as a Shepherds' Meet, focusing on sheep and dogs. Luckily, there may be an immediate replacement as Beamish Museum explores possibilities for continuing the experiment with wrestling last year. Keswick show returns to the list after two years of flood damage. Despite the recession, the number of events on the CWWA calendar remains constant.

Basically, our local wrestling sustains itself from year to year because costs are kept so low. The loss of over a million pounds in funding by the British Wrestling Association after the London Olympics must have been like an earthquake in that organisation.



Our friends in Brittany, the **Gouren Fédération**, last week issued an impassioned appeal for financial help, "*Une nouvelle mobilisation est impérative !!*" They are aiming at raising 20,000 Euros to sustain their training programmes and fund a period when they can restructure for the long term.

A few weeks ago I commented on the time and mileage freely given by a roomful of referees at the pre-season workshop, and this largesse of wrestling organisers continues week by week. This year I have been invited to judge at the Westmorland Show, but not in the wrestling ring. Instead, the Belted Galloway classes will parade before me in the cattle ring. As a cattle judge, I qualify for Bed and Breakfast the previous night if I live more than fifty miles away, and 32p per mile travelling expenses. The wrestling judges will be lucky to have free access to the showground.

The likes of Alf Harrington(the CWWA Secretary) and a few others will travel in the region of five thousand miles each this summer to organise wrestling without passing their expenses on to the events they help. A small army of enthusiasts keeps our distinctive sport alive and viable.

May 22nd 2014

SEDBURGH GALA

NEWS UPDATE

Monday, 26th May (1.30) Northumberland County Show U10 / U12 / U14 / **U18 World Championship** / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13½st / AW

Thursday, 29th May (6.45) Killington Sports U9 / U12 / U15 / **U18 & 10st World Championship** / U21 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW



The wrestling at Sedbergh Gala began with three dots wrestling in the Under 9s and built up to the culmination of the All Weights final when two big men at the height of their powers, Stuart Fleming and Thomas Brocklebank, needed four holds to sort out the



winner.

Fleming won the first bout cleanly enough with a cross-buttock, but a wayward knee meant a dog fall for the second, and the third hold ended in a heap outside the designated ring. The final bout was clear cut when Fleming resorted to the classic combination of a twist to get his man out of position and a back-heel to finish him off.

The South Cumbria Young Farmers' Club Field Day took several wrestlers away from Sedbergh. Just think how many agricultural motifs, Suffolk tups and collie dogs, are embroidered onto the wrestling strips of the Wilson/Atkinson family, and you see who would be stock-judging and tug-o'-warring at the YFC annual jamboree.

Sedbergh numbers were inevitably reduced, but when you have a full turn-out of the Brocklebank/Hayhurst/Hodgson families you know you are in for a wrestling treat. Add to that the new faces produced from winter training at Burnieside, and a few wrestlers from Carlisle and Milnthorpe Academies, and you have a recipe for a good wrestling session.

Two of the Carlisle wrestlers had excellent wins: Thomas Gibson won at Under 15 with a hipe to finish; and Abi Marston was a swinging success in the girls' wrestling.



Otherwise it was inevitably Kendal all the way with the exception of Stuart Fleming who has no club affiliation.

James Hayhurst felled Thomas Gibson in the Under 18 final, and then wrestled up to Graham Brocklebank in the 13 stones. Brocklebank was in fine somersaulting form, but basically went back to his father's old favourite: get a good hold and rush your man forward off the hip.

The lawn-like sward was a big improvement on last year's rainy morass. Let's hope it continues at the Northumberland Show and Killington Sports next week when the two Under 18 Years Championships (Open and under 10 stones) are up for grabs.

Results (* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2012)

Sedbergh Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	R Hodgson	J-L Stainton	M Stainton
Under 12 Years	T Hodgson	R Armstrong	J Guy
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	T Hayhurst	K Harrison
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	T Gibson	T Hayhurst
Girls	A Marston	L Bigley	A Harker
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Hayhurst	B Brocklebank
All Weights	S Fleming	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank

May 29th 2014

NORTHUMBERLAND SHOW

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday June 7th - Northern District YFC Field Day

Saturday, June 14th - Cumberland Show

Saturday, June 14th - Roman Wall Show

Saturday, June 14th - Lowgill

*****>

The complete list of venues is [HERE](#)



The wrestling ring at the Northumberland Show was a dryish patch in a muddy world, and drew wrestlers from four academies to contest the Under 18 years World Championship, Cumberland and Westmorland Style.



The holder of the title, James Hayhurst, was the hot favourite to retain it with his precocious record of winning senior



as well as junior titles, but in the first wrestling of the season at Hethersgill Vintage Rally, he was completely out of sorts and went out early and easily in his categories.

All that was behind him at the Northumberland Show, for he coasted to victory and another year of trophy cleaning. In each bout from first round to the final against George Wilson, he took no risks, gaining as good a hold as his granddad Peter would wish, and then finished with a hipec to end as a worthy champion.

Richard Fox of Hethersgill was in fine, bustling form. He wrestles well and usually successfully by pulling his opponents up onto their toes and moving in with back-heels, inside-clicks and the like, but always lurking in the background is his Weapon of Mass

Destruction, the full and uninhibited buttock. Following that pattern he felled Andrew Sandercock in the final of the 13½ stones by countering his inside-click with a twist and then for the second fall smothering him with a back-heel.

In the All Weights his problems were bigger, taller and stronger, meaning that he met Heavyweight Champion Andrew Ord in the semi-final, and Jason Davidson in the final. Andrew Ord managed to stop the buttock for the first fall, but Fox responded with an inside-click which cut down Ord's long legs. In the decider, Fox was much more circumspect, and did not rush to buttock as he had in the first bout. The result was that he set up his position more carefully before making his play, and that made all the difference. Jason Davidson, in his veteran stage is wrestling really well, but was unable to cope with Richard Fox's favourite chip.



The two Wharton brothers, Connor and Mark, showed wrestling class at an early age to win at Under 10 and Under 12. Harry Bertram showed his skills to win at Under 14. He is building his experience and technique so that he will be a force to contend with in the men's wrestling in a few years. Joseph Wragg did not appear in the prize-lists, but his hanking for two falls in succession, showed his potential.



It was good to see two Waberthwaite wrestlers, Tom Johnson and Adrian Miles, so far from home, so well turned out in neat traditional costume and giving a good account of themselves.

Freya Waddington and Lucy Singer monopolised the female wrestling with their tough bouts. Each gained a win. Andrew Sandercock, after last season's withdrawal through injury, is on great form, with his inside-clicks and surprise twists.

And finally, Jack Brown and David Miller had a wonderful set-to in the final of the 11½ stones when Brown's height, power and wrestling nous won the day, but only after Miller came within a whisker of success with his all-out attacking style.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Northumberland County Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	C Wharton	R Bates	T Wilson
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	J Gibson
Under 14 Years	H Bertram	F Canfield	H Wilson
Girls under 16 Years	L Singer	F Waddington	T Bertram
Under 18 Years World Championship	J Hayhurst	G Wilson	A Miles
Ladies Open	F Waddington	L Singer	T Bertram
11½ Stone	J Brown	D Miller	S Wilson
13½ Stone	R Fox	A Sandercock	M. Atkinson
All Weights	R Fox	J Davidson	A Sandercock

June 5th 2014

KILLINGTON SPORTS

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday June 7th Northern District YFC Field Day

Saturday, June 14th - 1230 - Roman Wall Show U10 / U13 / U17 / Ladies / 11½ / 13½ / AW

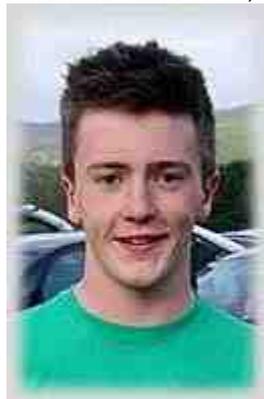
Saturday, June 14th- 3.30 - Cumberland Show U10 / U12 / U15 / U18 /Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 12 / 14 / AW (£950 prize money)

Saturday, June 14th - Lowgill - 7pm - U7 / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / 12 / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



The final of the Under 18/10st World Championship, Cumberland and Westmorland style, was inevitable as two young wrestlers at that age and weight have emerged from the crowd this winter and in the first action of the 2014 Grass Season. Sam Wilson of Kendal and Adrian Miles of Waberthwaite met in the Academy Shield and in a sparkling bout in the Under 18 Championship at the Northumberland Show. Wilson won the bout on the mats at the Shield competition, and Adrian Miles got the last twist in at the Northumberland Show, so honours were even when they took hold in the final at Killington.



Sam Wilson, in his exam year at Queen Katherine School, Kendal is having to do plenty of academic thinking, but he also finds time to think strategically about wrestling. The first bout was well planned: a good hold kept the usually



quicksilver Miles under a measure of control. An inside-click did not finish him off, but put him off balance, where a swift twist finished the job. The second bout, however, showed no sign of planning, but was a bomb-burst of action and reaction as two fast lightweights at the top of their game sought the finishing twist. In the end Sam Wilson threw Miles back over for the winning throw and the Championship.

The Junior wrestling was so popular, and time so scarce, that single falls were necessary to complete the programme before darkness fell. Brothers Connor and Mark Wharton each won their age-groups, as they had at the Northumberland Show. George Wilson towered over the opposition in the Under 15s. Abi Marston, in the girls event continued her winning ways. And in a rare Under 21s event Ben Brocklebank hiped his cousin Daryl Hodgson in the final.

The youth wrestling was lively fun mainly, but the two men's events had a gravitas and extra bite with an influx of top wrestlers. At 13 stones John Harrington has had his work cut out to deal with the crop of good lightweights who have come through from the boys classes. In the 13st final Ben Brocklebank towered over him, but was thrust even higher when Harrington gained a good hold and lifted. Usually the next ploy is to throw the man even higher to try to extricate his legs before throwing him down. At Killington,

Harrington feinted to do that but instead dropped his man suddenly onto his knees. The Heavy weights was just that.....heavy....lowish in numbers but high in tonnage. The final brought two Kendal Academy wrestlers together, and Thomas Brocklebank felled Joseph Robson with some big twists.

..... and Athletics - Cumbria Style ?.....



Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Killington Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	C Wharton	T Wilson	T Greensmith
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	R Armstrong
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	P Denney	G Thomas
Girls under 17 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard	A Barker
Under 18 Years / 10 Stone World Championship	S Wilson	A Miles	S Gorst
Under 21 Years	B Brocklebank,	D Hodgson	T Gibson
13 Stone	J Harrington	B Brocklebank	D Hodgson
All Weights	T Brocklebank	J Robson	S Fleming

June 12th 2014

CUMBRIA YFC NORTHERN FIELD DAY

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, June 14th - 1230 - Roman Wall Show U10 / U13 / U17 / Ladies / 11½st / 13½st / AW

Saturday, June 14th- 3.30 - Cumberland Show U10 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 12st / 14st / AW (£950 prize money)

Saturday, June 14th - Lowgill - 7pm - U7 / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / 12st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



The forecasters threatened hail, thunder and lightning, so the young farmers at their North Cumbrian Field Day at Heskett Newmarket I suppose were lucky to have a mere downpour that would have worried Noah. The winter training on the Carlisle Wrestling Club mats had raised the general standard of the bouts, but as usual, the more serious wrestlers, with years of training in their system were mainly the winners.

In the men's weights it all went to form with good wins for Thomas Wales, John Harrington and Richard Fox. Dawn Gibson, in the Over 10 Stones, is no longer a regular competitor, but she is from a family of wrestlers and has put in the mileage in the past, so



she was able to fell another knowledgeable competitor, Sandra Woodend, in the final.

competitor, Sandra

The biggest stir-up and confusion came in the Women's Under 10 Stones. Early in the competition, Nichola Smith of Brampton, "Titch" as it said on her shirt, took the first fall against Zoe Hall of Skelton with a full on hank which left the Skelton girl flat on the wet ground for some time, trying to recover her wind and wits. She made a full recovery, fought back to beat Titch in the next two falls and in the final she felled a good young wrestler, Abi Marston, who is a regular competitor.

Mervyn Sewell, a leading figure in the Post War era when wrestling blossomed, has died aged 88years. He won the lightweights at Grasmere in 1946 while still a Mathematics undergraduate at Manchester University, trained regularly with the great Ronnie Steel, was a leading light in the formation of a new Carlisle Academy in the forties, and wrote for the Carlisle Journal under the nom-de-plume of "Crossbuttocker".

Mervyn was elected to the Governing Board in 1971 and was appointed as an auditor in 1975. He served as auditor until 1987. At that point he was elected as a life member of the Wrestling Association.

When I first met Mervyn I did not know who he was as I was a regular competitor while he was watching from the surrounding crowd. I came for interview as an English teacher at Trinity School, and was shown into the Lower School staffroom where a small bespectacled man shouted, "It's Tony!" (As was my family name in Northumberland); he grabbed hod and started wrestling. Welcome to Carlisle.

As a teacher in his first job he organised wrestling at Brook Street School in Carlisle, and he did the same when he moved into the more rural Caldew School after stints at Carlisle Grammar School and Trinity School.

I knew of Mervyn before I ever met him, for there was talk that Tom Harrington had a sort of wrestling guru and Personal Trainer, and that was Mervyn Sewell. The reality was that Tom Harrington worked at Belmont Farm which was run by Mervyn's brother-in-law. Each day the two of them would work shoulder-to-shoulder amongst the dairy cows, and the talk was always and incessantly about wrestling, wrestlers and the action. The yard brush was perfect for demonstrating how to do an outside-stroke.

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

YFC Northern Field Day

Event	First	Second	Third
Men's 9½ Stone	T Wales (Raughton Head)	R Beard (Longtown)	J Mounsey (Drigg)
11½ Stone	J Harrington (Caldbeck)	K Miller (Aspatria)	P Gardner (Longtown)

Event	First	Second	Third
Over 11½ Stone	R Fox (Longtown)	A Coulthard (Wigton)	M Bush (Penrith)
Women's 10 Stone	Z Hall (Skelton)	A Marston (Kirklington)	O Grindley (Aspatria).
Over 10 Stone	D Gibson (Skelton)	S Woodend (Drigg)	E Fisher (Penrith)

June 19th 2014

A BUSY DAY'S WRESTLING

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday, June 14th - Lowgill - 7pm - U7 / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / 12st / AW

Saturday 21st June Quernmore Classes for Juniors to cover ages 6-18. Senior classes depending on age and weight of those attending.

Saturday 28th June (3.00) Alston Gala U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 29th June (3.00) Patterdale U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday 5th July (4.45) Skelton Show U13 / U16 / U18 / Ladies / 11st / 13½st / AW

Sunday 6th July (1.30) Distington U12 / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW

Sunday 6th July Langdale U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / U21 & 11st / Ladies 10st / Ladies Open / 13st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



One of the busiest days of the year for Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling saw wrestling at three widely spaced events. Around lunchtime the action began at the Roman Wall Show in one of the most spectacular rings of the circuit where lakes, the Whin Sill and the Roman Wall stretch into the distance. Tea-time marked the beginning of the comprehensive wrestling programme at the Cumberland Show, and late supper the time to tek hod at Lowgill in North Lancashire.



Various wrestlers had good days with wins at two events: Thomas Gibson in his last days before his fifteenth birthday was at his best in gaining two wins, particularly showing his mettle in felling George Wilson at Carlisle. Donna Thompson on her return to the ring kept the good Northumbrian girls Lucy Singer and Freya Waddington under some sort of control at both events. And Andrew Ord, particularly showed his patient skills and surprising strength in the All Weights to fell the flourishing newcomer, Andrew Sandercock on the Whin Sill and the rampant Richard Fox on the home straight at Carlisle Racecourse. Ord's final fall against Fox at Carlisle was a remarkable throw. Fox was already one fall down so he went for his best shot, the full buttock. Although he got right under Ord, he could not find the impetus and leverage to lift his long-legged opponent onto his back and over. From that position Ord lifted Fox out from under him and with one movement threw him up and back onto the turf. This was Fox's second final at Carlisle for he felled Jack Brown in the final of the 14 stones. For his prolonged display of wrestling

excellence he was awarded the Guinness Trophy for the most meritorious performance in all the wrestling.



Jack Brown was not at his best on his home turf at the Roman Wall but he rallied well to succeed at Carlisle.

John Harrington and Andrew Carlile shone brightest in winning the 11½ stones and 13½ stones at the Roman Wall Show. Andrew Sandercock continued to take wrestlers by surprise with his late twists and turns and was awarded the best performance trophy at the Roman Wall. Jack Ewart had one of the best falls of the day with a remarkable left-leg inside-hipe. And Matty Hodgson, immaculately turned out in the traditional strip, came through a big entry to win the Under 10 Years at Carlisle Racecourse, just a mile away from the Currock House Gym where he learns his skills each winter.

An International Wrestling Training Camp for athletes 14 to 20 years of age is being organised by Frazer Hirsch in Angus for the beginning of August. Already he has had a good response from the Icelanders and the Bretons. Anyone wishing to take part should contact their Academy coach who has full details

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ANGUS WRESTLING TRAINING CAMP
1st International Training Camp
Douglaswood Scout Centre by Monikie DD5 3QH
For 14 to 20 year olds - Male & Female
From: 6pm Thursday August 31st to Sunday August 3rd

Programme
Two days training in the 3 different styles of Traditional Wrestling
Sunday August 3rd: A day of competition at Bridge of Allan Highland Games

		
Glima Wrestling	Backhold Wrestling	Gouren Wrestling

Cost £50.00 per person including Accommodation and Meals
Contact Frazer Hirsch 044 (0)7828122985 or frazer8041@hotmail.com

(CLICK ON TOP LINES FOR DIRECTIONS HOW TO GET THERE)

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

The Roman Wall Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	W Hindmarsh	V Davidson	O Tower
Under 13 Years	G Singer	J Robson	T Davidson
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	A Storey	C Whitfield
Under 17 Years	J Coates	T Gibson	C Whitfield
Ladies	D Thompson	F Waddington	L Singer
Over 11½ Stone	J Harrington	J-J Pattinson	J Brown
13½ Stone	A Carlile	J Brown	A Sandercock
All Weights	A Ord	A Sandercock	J Davidson
Best Performance	Andrew Sandercock		

Cumberland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Hodgson	J Blain	H Wales
Under 12 Years	M Wharton,	T Davidson	G Singer
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	G Wilson	C Whitfield
Girls Under 15 Years	F Waddington	L Singer	A Marston
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	G Wilson	T Gibson
Ladies Open	D Thompson	A Marston	L Singer
12 Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	D Miller
14 Stone	R Fox	J Brown	J Harrington.
All Weights	A Ord	R Fox	J Hall
Guinness Trophy	Richard Fox		

Lowgill Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 7 Years	G Hodgson	H Huddlestone	B Woodhouse
Under 12 Years	T Hodgson	R Edmondson	I Middleton
Under 14 Years	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson	J Gardner
Under 16 Years	T Hayhurst	J Gardner	L Hall
Ladies Open	T Hodgson	G Hodgson	R Hodgson
12 Stone	T Hayhurst	A Fox	L Hall
All Weights	G Brocklebank	T Hodgson	D Hodgson

June 26th 2014

QUERNMORE SPORTS

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday 28th June (3.00) Alston Gala U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 29th June (3.00) Patterdale U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday 5th July (4.45) Skelton Show U13 / U16 / U18 / Ladies / 11st / 13½st / AW

Sunday 6th July (1.30) Distington U12 / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW

Sunday 6th July Langdale (2.00) U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / U21 & 11st / Ladies 10st / Ladies Open / 13st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



The Milnthorpe Academy coach, David Parsons, spent much of his time at Quernmore Sports crouched beside pairs of young wrestlers like a benign scoutmaster teaching a particularly complicated knot. Inexperienced youngsters were trying to take hold for wrestling, Cumberland and Westmorland style.

Quernmore Sports on its steep hillside was a strange mixture of high-powered fell running with big numbers heading up to the top of Clougha Pike, and a village Fete linked strongly to the school with maypole dancing and kiddies' races. The wrestling came at the end of the main programme and kept a vociferous family orientated crowd well entertained until early evening.



Perhaps wrestling needs more events like this with enough classes to give everyone a fair chance. At every weight and age category there were keen competitors, boys and girls, many still in their running gear from the fell race. At first the wrestlers were absolutely inexperienced and time-consuming for the referee, but as time went on, four young wrestlers with academy training stiffened the competition. Jack Threlfall, Dylan Bradley, Joe Lashley and Josh Threlfall all had good wins.



Then came the turn of the local men in the Novice wrestling: "Dad, You were rubbish!" Laughter and good humour was the order of the day, though there was some astonishingly technical wrestling with back-heels and inside-clicks as well. And all participants were trying hard despite the levity. Then to round off the action, applause met the two "real" wrestlers who had lingered at the ring's edge while others competed. Brothers Thomas and Ben Brocklebank were invited to wrestle a challenge match, best-of-seven falls. The two powerful wrestlers at the top of their game quickly showed an extra dimension of the traditional sport when in the first bout they reached positions undreamt of earlier in the day. Ben so nearly buttocked big brother, Thomas, and they fell headlong together from a big height. "Ooh!" went the onlookers, and "Aah!".... And all went home satisfied. An International Wrestling Training Camp for athletes 14 to 20 years of age is being organised by Frazer Hirsch in Angus for the beginning of August. Already he has had a good response from the Icelanders and the Bretons. Anyone wishing to take part should contact their Academy coach who has full details

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 Sunday August 3rd: A day of competition at Bridge of Allan Highland Games



Glima Wrestling



Backhold Wrestling



Gouren Wrestling

Cost £50.00 per person including Accommodation and Meals

Contact Frazer Hirsch 044 (0)7828122985 or frazer8041@hotmail.com

(CLICK ON ADDRESS FOR DIRECTIONS HOW TO GET THERE)

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Quernmore Show

Event	First	Second	Third
4 Stone	G Thackeray	A Pajak	N Giles
6 Stone	Jack Threlfall	Harry Carter	Hazel Carter
8 Stone	D Bradley	G Donald	Jack Threlfall
Under 7 Years	S Rainford	G Thackeray	A Pajak
Under 9 Years	L Longworth	B Giles	J Bainbridge
Under 11 Years	G Donald	J Threlfall	M Walsh
Under 13 Years	Jack Threlfall	J Cummings	Harry Carter
Under 15 Yaers	J Lashley	Josh Threlfall	D Bradley
Under 18 and 11 Stone	D Bradley	W Huntington	
Under 18 and 12½ Stone	J Lashley,	Josh Threlfall	J Whitaker
Under 18 Years	Josh Threlfall	J Lashley	J Whitaker
Novice Men	A Rainford	S Dickinson	B Harris
Challenge Match	T Brocklebank felled	B Brocklebank	

July 3rd 2014

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday 5th July (4.45) Skelton Show U13 / U16 / U18 / Ladies / 11st / 13½st/ AW

Sunday 6th July (1.30) Distington U12 / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW

Sunday 6th July Langdale (2.00) U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / U21 & 11st / Ladies 10st / Ladies Open / 13st / AW

Sunday 13th July (2.00) Haltwhistle U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / Novice / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 13th July Great Ecclestone

Sunday 20th July (2.30) Coniston U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Friday 25th July (2.30) Langholm Common Riding U12 / U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge was head and shoulders above the other wrestlers last week-end. At Alston Gala he won all three senior events and on the next day he wrestled in two finals, winning the All Weights. He uses his height and long legs to great effect, particularly with his inside hipes, but he is a complete wrestler with strong defences and the ability to weave two and three techniques together to initiate and then complete a fall. Andrew Sandercock took a fall from him with some good defensive work in the 13 stones at Alston but otherwise he was in control. At Patterdale, though, he was undone in the 12½st semi-final, when an on-form Andrew Carlile caught him with a quick buttock for the first fall. For the second, Carlile swung Brown low to the ground like a left-handed scythe before Brown's widespread feet caught on the ground and he flipped over. At Alston it was sad to see an ever-present wrestler sitting at the ringside with his lower leg in plaster. Thomas Gibson was injured when tackled by a friend playing break-time football at school. He faces four weeks in plaster and then careful recovery time. Ironically, the friend who did the damage, Sam Brown, replaced him in the wrestling ring and won the Under 18 Years in a final with Sam Wilson of Kendal. That final was a typical episode in Sam Wilson's week-end. He began brilliantly with a hank for the first fall but then was twisted down twice by Brown. He had some of the best falls of the two days, but never made the winner's enclosure.



It was good to see Craig Naylor, with a clean bill of health from the doctor, featuring in two finals. Mark Wharton continues on his skilful way to dominate the Under 12 Years category. A Novice competition again rounded off the wrestling programme at one of our events with lots of crowd interest and participation. And the crowd on the Patterdale cricket pitch stayed to the very end applauding the wrestlers and their achievements.

John Wilson, the Kendal coach had a busy educational week when the Ambleside Sports Fund enabled him to teach wrestling for three days at schools clustered in South Lakeland. The Junior Schools at Ambleside, Langdale and Grasmere all had long wrestling sessions. At Ambleside all 100 children wrestled, and at the end of the day the Head Teacher said, "That's the best thing that's

happened to this school in the seven years I've been here." At Ambleside Sports six wrestlers from each school will compete in a special competition to open the wrestling programme for the day.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Alston Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
6 Stone	J Gibson	M Hodgson	C Wharton
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	J Gibson	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	M Wharton	W Walton
Under 18 Years	S Brown	S Wilson	M Wharton
Ladies Open	A Marston	B Philipson	R Hodgson
11½ Stone	J Brown	E Craney	S Wilson
13 Stone	J Brown	S Wilson	E Craney
All Weights	J Brown	G Wilson	A Sandercock
Novices	J Williams	S Brown	A Hains.

Patterdale Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	M Hodgson	R Ewing
Under 15 Years	J Lashley	G Wilson	D Bradley
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	J Lashley	S Wilson
Ladies	A Marston	Z Marston	R Hodgson
12½ Stone	A Carlile	C Naylor	J Brown
All Weights	J Brown	C Naylor	A Carlile

July 10th 2014

SKELTON, LANGDALE AND DISTINGTON HOST THE WRESTLING THIS WEEK

NEWS UPDATE

Sunday 13th July Haltwhistle (2.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / Novice / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 13th July Great Ecclestone (1.15) U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13st / AW

Sunday 20th July Coniston (2.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Friday 25th July Langholm Common Riding(2.30) U12 / U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Wrestling venues last week-end gave a cross-section of Cumbria with Skelton Show in the rich Eden Valley, Langdale Gala amongst the highest fells, and Distington Vintage Rally in the western coastal plain where mining and industry ruled.

The Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling rounded off a glorious day for Skelton Show. Once competition for the main ring waned, and only wrestling was on offer, a goodly crowd settled in the sunshine to follow the action. The Wharton family were well to the fore again with Connor winning an impromptu Under 10s competition and older brother Mark continuing his high success rate in the Under 12s.



> Skelton Show seems to specialise in finding fit youngsters who fancy a go at the sport. This year the pick of the bunch was Levi Miller who was a natural at attack and defence. In the Under 16s Thomas Wales, trained at Carlisle Wrestling Club, had been flinging all and sundry on his way through the rounds, but was taken by surprise by Miller in the final. It was good to see Wales lifting his game even further in the Under 18s, where he got his revenge.



> Andrew Carlile continued his fizzing form in the 11½ stones. Kieran Miller had thrilled the crowd when he hiped and back-heeled 11st champion, Jack Brown, in the first semi-final. Not to be outdone, in the other semi-final John Harrington hanked Carlile brilliantly but went down in the other falls to some lightning back-heels. In the final Carlile was boss, again back-heeling, and then winning the last fall with a sudden twist-off-the-breast. John Harrington left Richard Fox frustrated by felling him in the first round of the middleweights, but Harrington himself fell short after a big outside-hip in the first bout of the final with Jack Brown. Richard Fox was well focused by the time the All Weights arrived and he stormed through to win, never buttocking, but back-heeling and cross-clicking.



On the following day Jack Brown travelled to Langdale and won the Under 21 Years/11 stones, but found Graham Brocklebank too strong and savvy in the men's weights. Abi Marston had a good day with a double win; the Wharton family struck again; and the Wilson cousins, George and Sam, dominated the older boys.

At Distington, organiser Alf Harrington said, "The usual wrestlers (John Harrington and Craig Naylor) obviously knew too much for the others but the wrestling between the novices was keen and competitive but at the same time really sporting. We never do get large numbers of regulars turning up at Distington but we always seem to have a good day's competition."

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Skelton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
* Under 10 Years	C Wharton	L Elliott	M Hodgson
Under 13 Years	M Wharton	A Martin	M Hodgson
Under 16 Years	L Miller	T Wales	B Harrison
Under 18 Years	T Wales	P Donoghue	L Miller
11½ Stone	A Carlile	K Miller	J Brown
13 Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	A Carlile
All Weights	R Fox	A Carlile	J Brown
Ladies	E Fisher	G Coulthard	R Hodgson

Langdale Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	C Wharton	M Capstick	V Davidson
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	J Harrison	G Coulthard
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	M Wharton	P Denney
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	G Wilson	J Wilson
Ladies 10 Stone	A Marston,	I Kelly	G Coulthard
Under 21 Years & 11 Stone	J Brown	B Harrison	J Wilson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Brown	A Myers
Ladies	A Marston	C Jones	A Coulthard
All Weights	G Brocklebank	J Brown	W Hayhurst

Distington

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	T Neale	D Dixon
Under 15 Years	H Wilson	T Neale	D Drinkwater
Under 18 Years	J Wilson	P Lewis	D Atkinson
12½ Stone	J Harrington	C Naylor	S Glaister
All Weights	J Harrington	J Hall	C Naylor

July 17th 2014

HALTWHISTLE CARNIVAL AND GREAT ECCLESTONE SHOW

NEWS UPDATE

[Sunday 20th July](#) Coniston (2.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

[Friday 25th July](#) Langholm Common Riding(2.30) U12 / U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

[Saturday 26th July](#) Penrith Show (1.00) U12 / U15 World Championship / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13st / AW

[Saturday 26th July](#) Beetham Sports

[Thursday 31st July](#) Ambleside Sports (12.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U14 / Ladies / 8 / 11½ / 12½ / 14 / AW

[Saturday August 2nd](#) Cockermouth Show

Saturday August 2nd Powburn Show - including 11st World Championship
Sunday August 3rd Gilsland Show - including 14st World Championship

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Haltwhistle Carnival last Sunday had a good programme of wrestling watched by a large appreciative audience, and complimented by a number of locals testing their skills against the more regular combatants. In addition we witnessed a return to the ring by Tom Teasdale after a number of years of retirement from the sport. Not surprisingly the main prizes went to the regulars but there was a fair degree of success for the less regular wrestlers.

Mark Wharton continued his run of success in the Under 12 years with some classy throws. His regular attendance for coaching at the Carlisle Club is showing in the array of trips he is able to display in the ring.

Alfie Story has been a less regular competitor recently but he showed he has not lost any of his abilities coming out on top of the pile in the Under 15 class and taking third place in an Under 18 section won a big strong local lad, Joe Coates.



In the female wrestling, Abi Marston's trips were too much for Bobbie Phillipson in the girl's Under 15 class, while Anna Coulthard (Gemma's older sister) got her first win, in the Ladies Open, accounting for Abi in the semi final and her sister in the final. Hopefully this will persuade her to take part in more events as she certainly has the ability.

The senior wrestling was dominated by the usual suspects with the main prizes going to Jack Brown in the lightweights, John Harrington in the middleweights and Andrew Ord in the heavy weights. The lightweights final was another in the growing list of battles between Jack Brown and John Harrington with the top quality we now



take for granted, the hipes of the younger man taking the spoils. John Harrington reacted by stepping up to the challenge in the middleweights to dispose of Alan Walton, who had earlier accounted for Jack Brown, being able to take the hold and use his strong back heel.

Andrew Ord had been a patient spectator while all this action had been unfolding and appeared to be caught cold at times by the two lightweights in the All Weights class, each of them claiming a fall, but like the true Champion he is, he quietly went about his

business to secure the deciding bouts.



A mention for Andrew Sandercock who, in the relatively short time he has been competing, has shown he is not to be taken lightly



and got his first win in the Novices and is the latest recipient of the Chris Walton Trophy. Jack Brown was the deserved winner of the Crawford Trophy for the best performance in the wrestling. Meanwhile, a hundred miles away at Great Eccleston the wrestling has returned to the main ring at the Show after a number of years of being down the hill, tucked away behind the tractor pulling and competing with the inevitable noise from them. Star of the show was undoubtedly James Hayhurst, winning all the classes he was able to enter, including the All Weights where he accounted for the local heavyweight Joe Threlfall. Despite losing the first fall he struck back with quick footwork to react to the strong twists from the much heavier Threlfall. Not surprisingly his heroics won him the cup for the best performance in the wrestling programme.

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Haltwhistle Carnival

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	R Armstrong	G Coulthard
Under 15 Years	A Story	R Archer	B Harrison
Under 18 Years	J Coates	J Rogan	A Story
Girls Under 15 Years	A Marston	B Phillipson	G Coulthard
Ladies	A Coulthard	G Coulthard	A Marston
Novices	A Sandercock	M Woodman	J Coates
11½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	T Teasdale
13 Stone	J Harrington	A Walton	J Brown
All Weights	A Ord	J Brown	A Sandercock
Best Performance	J Brown		

Great Eccleston Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under15 Years	G Wilson	J Wilson	T Hayhurst
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	G Wilson	S Wilson
13 Stone	J Hayhurst	S Wilson	T Hayhurst
All Weights	J Hayhurst	P Housby	S Wilson
Best Performance	J. Hayhurst		

July 24th 2014

CONISTON COUNTRY FAIR

NEWS UPDATE

Friday 25th July Langholm Common Riding (2.30) U12 / U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
Saturday 26th July Penrith Show (1.00) U12 / **U15 World Championship** / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 11½st / 13st / AW
Saturday 26th July - Beetham Sports (2.00) U12 / U14 / U16 / U18 / Ladies / 13st / AW
Thursday 31st July Ambleside Sports - (12.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U14 / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW
Saturday August 2nd Cockermouth Show - (1.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
Saturday August 2nd Powburn Show - (2.30) U10 / U13 / U16 / **11st World Championship** / AW / Novices
Sunday August 3rd Gilsland Show - (12.30) U10 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 11½st / **14st World Championship** / AW
Thursday August 7th - Ings

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Andrew Carlile did most of the work, but Jack Brown gained most of the wins in the wrestling at Coniston Country Fair. In the 11½ stones, they were the stand-out competitors and after a close bout, Brown felled Carlile in the semi-final, before going on to beat the improving but much lighter Thomas Hayhurst in the final.



One of the likely winners in the 13 stones was James Hayhurst, who has held two senior championships yet is still competing in the Under 18s. It fell to Carlile to meet him in the semi-final and the two showed wrestling at its best. Carlile struck first with a lightning twist for the first fall. Hayhurst then swung his man round and inside-clicked him in mid-air to equalise. The deciding fall went to Carlile with his trade-mark right-leg outside stroke which abruptly terminated the struggle.



That threw Jack Brown, the 11st Champion, and Carlile, the 12st Champion, together for the final. Both wrestlers were at the top of their game with adizzying series of attacks and counters. For the first fall, Brown finished it by hiping and following, hiping and following right across the ring until Carlile hit the grass. Carlile's faithful outside-stroke evened the score, and that set the scene for the best fall of the afternoon. After all the action Jack Brown's big twist, close to the ground, won the day.



"Grip him! Go for it! Get the elbow down!" Peter Hayhurst was advising his grandson William on tactics. He was one of several heavier wrestlers in the All Weights, and that strategy worked well to begin with against his brother, James, and for the first fall against the inevitable Andrew Carlile in the semi-final, but Carlile resorted to his outside-stroke and went through to the final against the powerful Stuart Fleming.

Fleming had too much power and skill, and his first fall was a classic outside stroke which laid Carlile flat on the turf.

Kendal Wrestlers George Wilson and James Hayhurst were a class above the rest in their age-groups. In the Under 12s, Gemma Couthard had her first success against the skilful Mark Wharton for some time, taking the first with a spectacular cross-buttock. Gemma then met big sister Anna in the Ladies final and had to concede bragging rights.

Anna Coulthard has attended plenty of wrestling events with her sister, but could never be persuaded to take part, until a few weeks ago when Alf Harrington took wrestling into Nelson Thomlinson School, Wigton, for a taster course. Since then she has been taking part regularly and successfully.

School wrestling sessions are a clear way to reveal natural talent, and at Ambleside Sports next week the wrestling programme opens with a three way match between the Junior schools at Grasmere, Ambleside, and Langdale as a result of three days of in-school wrestling courtesy of the Ambleside Sports Trust and Kendal coach, John Wilson.

We await results from Tom Harrington's recent training session at St Margaret Marys School, Upperby.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Coniston Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	J Guy	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	A Storey
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	T Hayhurst	A Storey
Ladies	A Coulthard	G Coulthard	J Harrison
11½ Stone	J Brown	T Hayhurst	A Carlile
13 Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	J Hayhurst
All Weights	S Fleming	A Carlile	W Hayhurst

July 31st 2014

GEORGE WILSON BECOMES THE UNDER 15 YEARS WORLD CHAMPION AT PENRITH SHOW

NEWS UPDATE

Thursday 31st July Ambleside Sports - (12.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U14 / Ladies / 8st / 11½st / 12½st / 14st / AW

Saturday August 2nd Cockermouth Show - (1.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Saturday August 2nd Powburn Show - (2.30) U10 / U13 / U16 / **11st World Championship** / AW / Novices

Sunday August 3rd Gilsland Show - (12.30) U10 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / 11½st / **14st World Championship** / AW

Thursday August 7th - Ings - (2.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW

Saturday August 9th - Dalston Show - (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday August 10th - Forestburngate (2.30) U10 / U12 / U15 / U21 / 12½st / 15½st / AW / Ladies

Tuesday August 12th - Kirkby Lonsdale (1.30) U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



In front of a big crowd, two dozen young wrestlers entered for the Under 15 Years World Championship at Penrith Show. First into the ring was George Wilson of Kendal Academy who gained a good hold and hiped his opponent. Some time later he was the last man standing, the new champion. In between, the younger, smaller, and less experienced wrestlers had all fallen away leaving three strong athletic youngsters to contest the semi-finals.

The tall Wilson struggled with Josh Threfall of Preston but gained and maintained a strong hold from which he was able to hipe and then twist over the knee for two straight falls. In the final, Joe Lashley of the Milnthorpe Academy made a fine start with an inside-click to take the first fall. The second fall was finely balanced, but suddenly, out of nowhere, Wilson found an outside-hipe which laid his opponent at his feet. The decider was another intense bout but Wilson kept his concentration and a good hold before back-heeling to win. Just to make his day even better, George Wilson then went on to fell Thomas Wales in the final of the Under 18s.



The theme of the men's wrestling was a series of fascinating, tough finals where no wrestler was dominant. In the 11½ stones David



Miller was in full flow and took the first fall in the final with a sudden
Champion, Jack Brown, regained control enough to hipe him twice.
In the 13 stones Craig Ridley reminded us of his prodigious talent when he made Richard Fox wrestle four times before a decision was reached. Fox began well enough with a buttock finished with a cross, but the next hold was a dog-fall as each wrestler ended up doing handstands side-by-side. Then Fox overloaded himself while buttocking, before normal service was resumed when he won the day by countering Ridley's attack.



The All Weights final also took four holds before Jimmy Hall stopped Richard Fox's buttock then hiped him.



The day before, at Langholm Common Riding, wrestlers and crowd baked in high temperatures. Andrew Carlile was on good form to win the 11½ stones, but his good form and skill came to nothing in the 13st final against a strong visitor from Glasgow, Nawad Tahir, who was obviously trained in Olympic Freestyle wrestling. The usual good entry of local heavyweights enlivened the crowd, but in the end Richard Fox and John Harrington waded through to the final where Fox won in straight falls.

Another big crowd gathered at Lanercost Priory for the funeral of Reggie Armstrong, one of the stalwarts of the Gilsland Academy in the 1950s. He was immensely strong and a great hipster. Once when in Scotland for Braemar he astonished the locals by running back and forward across the road with the massive Dinnie Stone. These qualities meant that he won the Heavyweight World Championship in 1954 and 1956, and the 14st belt in 1956. That same 14st trophy is up for competition on Sunday at Gilsland Show, held on land at Triermain which Reggie Armstrong farmed for many years.

At the Commonwealth games in Glasgow we have a link to one of the England Netball squad. In 2008 after the Young Farmer's Field Day I wrote,

"Helen Housby of Wigton used to tag along to Carlisle Wrestling Club with her brother and cousin, but that was years ago, and she is now double the height she was then. I remember her amazing gymnastic contortions when she wrestled and the way she could swing round the bars set in the ceiling of the Currock House Gym."

She won the 10 stones that day; now she's goal-shooter for England !

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Langholm Common Riding

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	T Wilson
Under 16 Years	G Wilson	A Story	J Wilson
Ladies	T Hodgson	A Coulthard	A Marston
* 6 Stone	J Gibson	C Wharton	T Wilson
11½ Stone	A Carlile	J Harrington	J Wilson
13 Stone	N Tahir	A Carlile	J Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	J Harrington	N Colley

Penrith Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	T Davidson	H Wilson
Under 15 Yrs World Championship	G Wilson	J Lashley	J Threlfall
Girls Under 15 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard	E Davidson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Wales	P Potts
Ladies	D Thompson	A Coulthard	J Eliot
* 6 Stone	K Harrison	J Gibson	J Wales
11½ Stone	J Brown	D Miller	J Harrington
13 Stone	R Fox	C Ridley	J Brown
All Weights	J Hall	R Fox	J Harrington

Beetham Sports

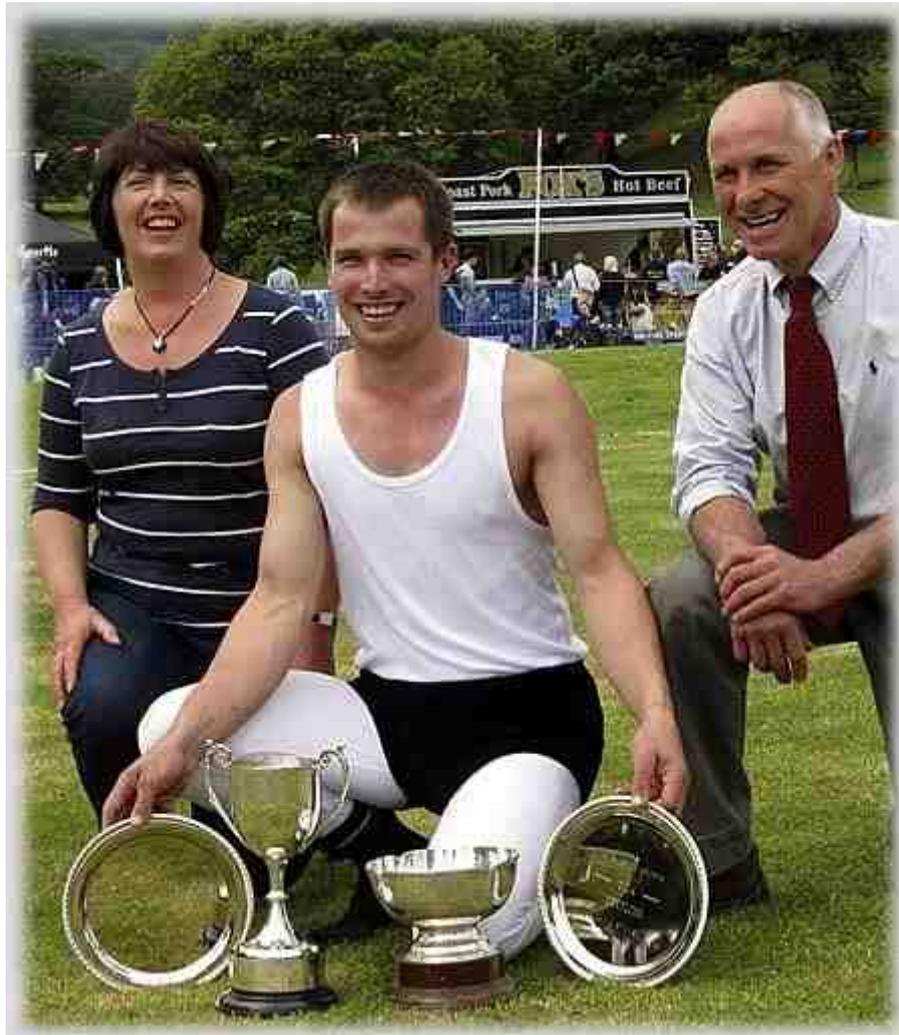
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Hodgson	M Smith	D Bourily
Under 14 Years	T Hodgson	J Kirby	Currington
Under 16 Years	T Hodgson	L Hall	J Dickinson
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	J Haddow	L Hall
Ladies	T Hodgson	R Hodgson	G Hodgson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	L Hall
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank

August 7th 2014

NEWS UPDATE

Thursday August 7th - Ings - (2.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW
Saturday August 9th - Dalston Show - (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
Sunday August 10th - Forestburngate (2.30) U10 / U12 / U15 / U21 / 12½st / 15½st / AW / Ladies
Tuesday August 12th - Kirkby Lonsdale (1.30) U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13st / AW
Saturday August 16th Allendale (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / 11½st / 13½st / AW
Saturday August 16th Gosforth (2.00) U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / **10½st World Championship** / 12st / AW
Saturday August 16th Rusland (2.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13 / AW
Sunday August 17th Torver (2.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume
Sunday August 24th Grasmere Sports (11.00) U12 / U15 / Girls U15 / U18 / Girls U18 / 8st / Women 10st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / Women AW / AW / Costume (4) (£2500)
Monday August 25th Silloth (11.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
Monday August 25th Keswick (3.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW
Wednesday August 27th Ennerdale (2.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW
Thursday August 28th Crosby Ravensworth (12.45) U13 / U16 / U18 / Girls Open / 13 / AW / Costume
Thursday August 28th Grayrigg (3.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls Open / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW
Saturday August 30th Newcastleton (12.00) U13 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW
Saturday August 30th Millom & B'ton (3.00) U12 / Local U15 / U16 / U18 / 12st / AW
Saturday August 30th Hesketh Newmarket (3.15) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls Open / Novice / 12½st
Saturday August 30th Bellingham (3.30) U12 / U16 / Novice / Ladies / 7st / 9st / 12st / 14st / AW
Friday 5th September Rothbury (6.30pm) U10 / U12 / U14 / U17 / U21 / Girls U16 / 9st / 11st / 13st / **15st World Championship** / AW / Women's AW
Saturday 6th September Harbottle U10 / U12 / U15 / U21 / Girls / Novice / 12st / AW
Saturday September 6th Lowick (3.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW
Sunday Sept 7th Wolsingham (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½ / 14st / AW.
Sun Sept 7th Loweswater (4.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12st / AW
Thursday September 11th Westmorland Show (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / U21-11st / 12st / **13st World Championship** / 14st / AW
Saturday September 13th Stanhope (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / **AW World Championship**
Sunday September 14th - Whitfield (2.00) - U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½ / AW *****

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Richard Fox had a week of wrestling to savour. At Ambleside Sports he was in three finals and won two of them. Raymond Rogerson, the Guinness trophy judge, had the easiest job ever in deciding that Fox merited the trophy for the best performance of

all in the Ambleside wrestling.

In the 12½ stones final, Ben Brocklebank drew first blood when Fox's hanking attempt failed, but Fox gained the next two falls by back-heeling and twisting. In the 14 stones final he met Ben's big brother, Graham Brocklebank, and disposed of him in straight falls, first by hanking and then by countering Brocklebank's back-heel with a timely twist. Then in the All Weights final, he completed the full set of Brocklebank brothers when he met the heaviest of them all, Thomas. Four close falls were needed to sort out the result. In the fourth fall Brocklebank simply snuffed out Fox's attempt to buttock.

Two days later at Cockermonth Show, Richard Fox scored a full house by winning both the 13 stones and the All Weights.

Yet the week ended in disappointment when he lost the 14st world title at Gilsland Show celebrating its Centenary year. Guess who felled him in the semi-final? Yes, Graham Brocklebank, who had obviously thought long and hard about tactics on the long journey from his home in Wharton, Lancashire. At this point I should be listing the details of the falls, but as I was the referee for the championship, I had to concentrate on the result of the action rather than the action itself. All I can say is that the power, intensity and flow of the wrestling were palpable, and Brocklebank won through to the final.



His opponent, Jack Brown, had renewed his lease on the 11st championship at Powburn Show the previous day, and had surmounted an unexpected hurdle in the first round at Gilsland when he met his wrestling coach from Carlisle Wrestling Club, Alan Jones, on a rare outing. I remember the last fall, for it looked as if Jack Brown would be twisted down by the veteran wrestler, but Brown spread his long legs and chested him down.

In recent years Brocklebank has missed out on a few championships that he looked destined to win, but he made no mistake at Gilsand.



The 11st Championship at Powburn was enlivened when the television presenter, actor and singer, Robson Green, entered the draw. He is well known at the moment for his "Extreme Fishing" series and is busy continuing his "Tales from Northumberland", which brought him to Powburn Show. He wore a wrestling strip and was a genuine contender in the championship until Rothbury's Joe Hale felled him in the first round with a swinging hipe. After being eliminated, he addressed the crowd, stressing the value of the local traditions which give identity to an area.

The 11st final saw Jack Brown survive an attack from Andrew Carlile in the first bout, and then clinch the win with a strong back-heel.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Ambleside Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	Jack Threlfall	G Coulthard
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	Joshua Threlfall	T Hayhurst
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	G Wilson	Joshua Threlfall
Girls Under 14 Years	G Coulthard	I Kelly	E Willoughby
Ladies Open	T Hodgson	L Singer	A Marston
8 Stone	M Wharton,	A Story	Jack Threlfall
11½ Stone	J Harrington	S Wilson	C Whitfield
12½ Stone	R Fox	B Brocklebank	J Harrington
14 Stone	R Fox	G Brocklebank	S Wilkinson
All Weights	T Brocklebank	R Fox	S Fleming
Guinness Trophy	Richard Fox		

Cockermouth Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	S Fulton	K Harrison
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	B Harrison	J Wilson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	B Harrison
Ladies	L. Murray	G. Coulthard	A. Marston
11½ Stone	K Miller	T Wales	T Hayhurst
13 Stone	R Fox	M Harrington	J Hall
All Weights	R Fox	K Miller	T Wilson

Powburn Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Bates	J Finn	W Hindmarsh
Under 13 Years	T Davidson	W Hindmarsh	M Bates
Under 16 Years	J Hale	C Whitfield	H Bertram
Girls Under 16 Years	L Singer	F Waddington	T Bertram
Novices	R Dodd	C Mason	C Whitfield
11 Stone World Championship	J Brown	A Carlile	Joe Hale
All Weights	J Davidson,	J Brown	Joe Hale

Gilsland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Hodgson	C Wharton	C Coupland
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	C Wharton	M Hodgson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	C Whitfield	M Wharton
Girls Under 15 Years	F Waddington	L Singer	A Marston
Under 18 Years	J Coates	S Wilson	G Wilson
Ladies Open	D Thompson	D Gibson	L Elliot
11½ Stone	J Brown	P Potts	C Mason
14 Stone World Championship	G Brocklebank	J Brown	R Fox
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	J Davidson

August 14th 2014

4 WIDESPREAD WRESTLING VENUES THIS WEEK

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday August 16th Rusland (2.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13 / AW

Sunday August 17th Torver (2.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume

Sunday August 24th Grasmere Sports (11.00) U12 / U15 / Girls U15 / U18 / Girls U18 / 8st / Women 10st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / Women AW / AW / Costume (4) (£2500)

Monday August 25th Silloth (11.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Monday August 25th Keswick (3.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling was spread to its geographical limits in a long week-end that began with Ings Sheepdog Trials on the Thursday and ended at Kirkby Lonsdale Show on the Tuesday. In between we had Dalston Show, near Carlisle and Forestburngate in remotest Northumberland. Two families wrestled at all events: Abi Marston from Scaleby and the Harrison family from Silloth.

Abi's persistence won through at Forestburngate where she took on the Northumbrian lassies, but she had to give way to Anna Coulthard at the other three events. The Harrison family of young wrestlers are the grandchildren of Billie Harrison of Abbeytown

who was a champion wrestler when even I was young.

Other wrestlers to achieve multiple success were George Wilson with six wins, Ryan Armstrong and Jack Brown with three, and Richard Fox, Andrew Ord and Joe Threlfall with two apiece.

George Wilson of Kendal Academy is a big tall lad for his age, and he knows how to use his physique to accomplish good falls against other strong lads. For a time his cousin Sam Wilson was able to bamboozle him with clever wrestling, but recently George has been able to dominate him.

After Mark Wharton's twelfth birthday (celebrated in style at Ambleside in his last appearance at Under 12), Ryan Armstrong has taken over his mantel as the dominant wrestler in that category. He trains in the winter at Carlisle Wrestling Club, but has particularly flourished this Summer on the grass.

Jack Brown is nursing an injury but still managed to produce stylish wins. At Dalston Kieran Miller buttocked him for the first fall in the final, but Jack came back to win the next three falls. At Forestburngate he struggled with the riggs and furrows in the ring, the low centre of gravity of Charlie Carlyle and a wonderful buttock from Connor Mason. But, like the champion he is, he sorted out the problem and went on to win.

Richard Fox hustled his way to victory, twice, at Dalston, although he found his hands full with, his large mate, Graham Derby, in the final of the All Weights. Andrew Ord was on good form with the lock-hipe against the live-wire heavyweight Jack Hale at Forestburngate, but resorted to a simple back-heel in the last of their four encounters. Joe Threlfall met a good range of heavyweights at Ings and Kirkby Lonsdale and was on good form with hipes and twists

Ronnie Carr of Beamont has died. He was the last surviving member of the Carr brothers who were such a formidable force in the Carlisle Academy in the post-War years.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Ings Sheepdog Trials

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	G Coulthard	J Dobson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	T Hodgson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	S Wilson	E Zurawski
Girls	A Coulthard	G Coulthard	A Marston
13 Stone	S Wilson	Joshua Threlfall	R Blencarn
All Weights	Joe Threlfall	T Hodgson	G Wilson

Dalston Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	G Coulthard	T Hodgson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	J Gilroy	T Evans
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Wales	S Wilson
Ladies	A Coulthard	G Coulthard	R Hodgson
11½ Stone	J Brown	K Miller	P Potts
13 Stone	R Fox	J Harrington	K Miller
All Weights	R Fox	G Derby	J Brown

Forestburngate

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Bates	V Davidson	A Younger
Under 12 Years	T Davidson	J Harrison	G Singer
Under 15 Years	C Whitfield	H Bertram	N Jones
Girls	A Marston	I Bertram	J Harrison
Under 21 Years	J Brown	C Carlyle	C Mason
12½ Stone	J Brown	C Mason	Joe Hale
15½ Stone	A Ord	Jack Hale	J Davidson
All Weights	A Ord	Jack Hale	J Brown

Kirkby Lonsdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	T Wilson	M Harrison	R Hodgson
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	T Hodgson	G Coulthard
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	J Lashley	B Harrison
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	S Wilson	Joshua Threlfall
Lightweight Girls	R Hodgson	E Stainton	E Harrison
Ladies Open	A Coulthard	A Marston	G Coulthard
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	B Harrison
All Weights	Joe Threlfall	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank

August 21st 2014

ANDREW CARLILE CLINCHES THE WORLD 10½ STONE TITLE

NEWS UPDATE

Sunday August 24th Grasmere Sports (11.00) U12 / U15 / Girls U15 / U18 / Girls U18 / 8st / Women 10st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / Women AW / AW / Costume (4) (£2500)

Monday August 25th Silloth (11.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Monday August 25th Keswick (3.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Wednesday August 27th Ennerdale (2.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Thursday August 28th Crosby Ravensworth (12.45) U13 / U16 / U18 / Girls Open/13/AW/Costume

Thursday August 28th Grayrigg (3.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls Open / 8st / 11½st / 13st / AW

Saturday August 30th Newcastleton (12.00) U13 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday August 30th Millom & B'ton (3.00) U12 / Local U15 / U16 / U18 / 12st / AW

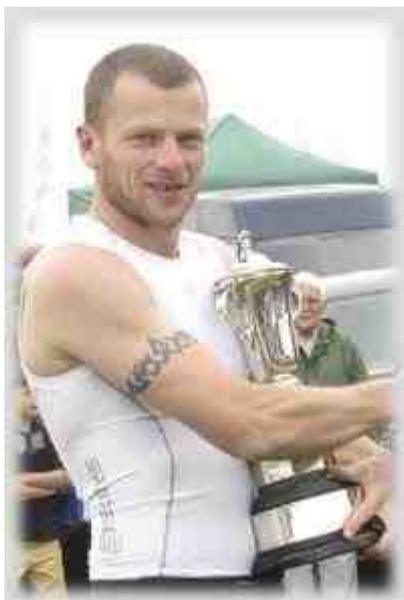
Saturday August 30th Heskett Newmarket (3.15) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls Open / Novice / 12½st

Saturday August 30th Bellingham (3.30) U12 / U16 / Novice / Ladies / 7st / 9st / 12st / 14st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Top sportsmen can be notoriously self-centred, focusing on their own career above all else, but Andrew Carlile, the new 10½ stones World Champion Cumberland and Westmorland style, does not operate like that. True, he emerged for the first event of the year at Hethersgill with a new wrestling strip and a renewed aura of fitness and skill, and won the 12st Championship, but he has been one of the main coaches at Carlisle Wrestling Club for some years and serves on the CWWA Governing Board as the wrestlers' representative. At the age of 34 he is already giving back his time and care to the sport which also continues to give him the satisfaction of athletic excellence.



At Gosforth Show the holder of the 10½st title, David Miller, was weighed out by a whisker, making Carlile's task easier, but still difficult, as the skill factor of the protagonists from the academies at Kendal, Carlisle and nearby Waberthwaite was high. In the first round Carlile hiped and threw back James Wilson. In the semi-final he won by reacting to Andrew Woodend's attacks with countering twists. And then in the final he resorted to the simple but effective art of the back-heel to control the youthful exuberance of Kieran Miller. Carlile has now held the title ten times since the year 2000, a record for the sport.

The need for good coaching was made especially clear at Torver when two girls entered from the crowd to take part in the wrestling. They were runners, good on their feet and active, but their bout for third place took up a big chunk of the afternoon because they did not have the experience and skills to finish off the moves they initiated. The referee, John Wilson even gave them a time-out to remove a layer of clothing, and to have some quick verbal coaching before battle recommenced. In the end, Eilidh Miller pulled off a buttocking twist that would have graced any ring, and Abi Marston, well rested, was able to win the Ladies final against Gemma Coulthard.

At Allendale John Harrington, one of the toughest wrestlers around, broke his ankle in the final of the 11½ stones. He walked around on it for a while, but now has a plaster in place and is shepherding from a vehicle seat. Allendale had a boost to its entries, when veteran wrestler, Tom Teasdale turned out, and Alfie Story, who won the Under 15s was able to watch his older brother, Johnny, and his dad, John, competing in the men's events.

Grasmere Sports takes place on Sunday and already it has drawn international attention again. Christian Salaun has brought over nine men and two women from Brittany to take part in our wrestling programme next week. And Frazer Hirsch, the new President of The Scottish Wrestling Bond will be bringing a group of six Scots and five Icelanders. I foresee spelling problems for the ladies on the Grasmere table.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Allendale

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Bates	K Pepper	R White
Under 15 Years	A Story	H Bertram	M Bates
Under 18 Years	Joe Hale	H Bertram	K Soanes
Ladies Open	K White	T Bertram.	
11½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	J Hale
13 Stone	J Brown	J Hale	M Harrington
All Weights	J Davidson	J Brown	J Story

Gosforth Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	E Davidson	J Penellum	V Davidson
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	G Coulthard	,K Moore
Under 15 Years	T Hayhurst	M Ratcliffe	
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	B Harrison	T Johnson
Ladies	A Coulthard	A Marston	G Coulthard
10½ Stone World Championship	A Carlile	K Miller	S Wilson

Event	First	Second	Third
12 Stone	A Carlile,	K Miller	D Miller
All Weights	D Miller .	A Woodend	C Naylor

Rusland Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	R Hodgson	H Rawlandson	J McMullum
Under 12 Years	J Mallot	B Albion	R Hodgson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	R Albion	J Sowerby
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	R Albion	
Girls	L Clough	M Pearson	A Clough
13 Stone	S Adams	R Albion	
All Weights	T Hodgson	W Hayhurst	S Adams

Torver

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	B Albion	G Coulthard
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	Joshua Threlfall	R Albion
Girls	A Marston,	G Coulthard	E Miller
11½ Stone	Joshua Threlfall	T Hayhurst	B Harrison
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	T Hayhurst	Joshua Threlfall
All Weights	T Brocklebank	Joe Threlfall	S Fleming

August 28th 2014

BRETONS, ICELANDERS AND SCOTS SHARPEN COMPETITION THIS WEEK

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday August 30th Newcastleton (12.00) U13 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW
Saturday August 30th Millom & B`ton (3.00) U12 / Local U15 / U16 / U18 / 12st / AW
Saturday August 30th Hesket Newmarket (3.15) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls Open / Novice / 12½st
Saturday August 30th Bellingham (3.30) U12 / U16 / Novice / Ladies / 7st / 9st / 12st / 14st / AW
Friday 5th September Rothbury (6.30pm) U10 / U12 / U14 / U17 / U21 / Girls U16 / 9st / 11st / 13st / **15st World Championship** / AW / Women's AW
Saturday 6th September Harbottle U10 / U12 / U15 / U21 / Girls / Novice / 12st / AW
Saturday September 6th Lowick (3.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW
Sunday Sept 7th Wolsingham (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½ / 14st / AW.
Sun Sept 7th Loweswater (4.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12st / AW
Thursday September 11th Westmorland Show (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / U21-11st / 12st / **13st World Championship** / 14st / AW
Saturday September 13th Stanhope (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / **AW World Championship**
Sunday September 14th - Whitfield (2.00) - U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½ / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling is in frenetic and constant action at this time of the year. Luckily, reinforcements are at hand in the form of a dozen Bretons, five Icelanders, and a selection of Scotsmen. All skilled exponents of their own traditional wrestling culture, they add to the uncertainties and excitement of the bouts. In the All Weights section, the visitors ruled the roost: the Icelandic heavyweight Olafur Sigurdsson won at Grasmere, and Ryan Dolan from Carnoustie won at Silloth, Keswick and Ennerdale. In the other weights the Cumbrian wrestlers managed to stem the tide, but only just. George Wilson in the Under 18s had to summon up his best hipes to keep the three young Bretons in check. At Ennerdale where he was missing for the first time those same Bretons took all three prizes.



At Grasmere Richard Fox was in his pomp, winning the Guinness Trophy for the most meritorious performance of the day, and felling Graham Brocklebank in two finals. Jack Brown did the same in the lighter weights, winning at both 11st and 12st. At times when he looked doomed he somehow stiffened like a plank with only his toes touching the ground and his opponent was unable to turn him.



On the Monday, at Silloth and Keswick, it was the turn of two lightweights, David Miller and Andrew Carlile to keep the invaders at bay. At Silloth the close nature of the bouts was shown by the great number of occasions when the third fall was needed to separate the wrestlers. Andrew Carlile dominated the bouts, winning both the 11½ and 13 stones, but at Keswick David Miller came



into his own. He had wrestled with flair throughout the weekend, but without a win. At Keswick that changed and he took home the trophy for the best performance of the day and a big smile. At Ennerdale Show the visitors came into their own, supplying most of the prizewinners. Local wrestler James Adeyman reminded us what a natural talent he has, but in general the local wrestlers were overwhelmed by the skills of the visitors.

Some startling performers never even reach the prize-lists. For me the best moment of the week, which raised the biggest cheer, came at Ennerdale when tiny Jack Harrison of Abbeytown buttocked two opponents significantly bigger than himself. Well done, Jack the Giant-killer.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Grasmere Sports

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	K Harrison	Jack Threlfall
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	B Harrison	G Robson
Girls Under 15 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard	L Bigley
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	T Gibson	S Wilson
Girls Under 18 Years	A Coulthard	L Hirsch	A Marston
8 Stone	A Story	K Harrison	H Bertram
Ladies 10 Stone	A Marston	L Bigley	L Hirsch
11 Stone	J Brown	E Tassel	D Miller
12 Stone	J Brown	D Miller	A Carlile
13 Stone	R Fox	G Brocklebank	A Carlile
14 Stone	R Fox	G Brocklebank	J Brown
Ladies All Weights	D Thompson	V Beatty	C Hodgson
All Weights	O Sigurdsson	R Dolan	G Brocklebank
Guinness Trophy	Richard Fox		

Silloth Carnival

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard,	K Harrison	J Gibson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	B Harrison	J Gilroy
Girls Under 15 Years	A Marston	G Coulthard	L Bigley
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	Y Guennec	G Cisse
11½ Stone	A Carlile	D Miller	H Steindorsson
13 Stone	A Carlile	G Brunou	D Miller
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	E Johansdottir	P Sellin
All Weights	R Dolan	A Asmunsson	Joe Threlfall

Keswick Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	K Harrison	M Hodgson
Girls Under 13 Years	G Coulthard	J Harrison	L Bigley

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	G Robson	B Harrison
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	G Cisse	Y Guennec
Ladies Open	D Thompson	E Johannesdottir	
11½ Stone	D Miller	G Brunou	H Steindorsson
13 Stone	A Carlile	D Miller	P Murray
All Weights	R Dolan	A Asmundursson	J Threlfall

Ennerdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	G Coulthard	J Hewitt
Under 15 Years	J Irving	B Harrison	T Neale
Under 18 Years	G Cisse	G Tassel	Y le Guennec
Ladies	E Johannesdottir.	E Guezennec	P Sellin
12½ Stone	G Brunou	Y le Guennec	H Steindorsson
All Weights	R Dolan	J Adeyman	D Barnes

September 4th 2014

LITTLE AND LARGE EVENTS DRAW THEIR SUPPORTERS

NEWS UPDATE

Friday 5th September Rothbury (6.30pm) U10 / U12 / U14 / U17 / U21 / Girls U16 / 9st / 11st / 13st / **15st World Championship** / AW / Women's AW

Saturday 6th September Harbottle U10 / U12 / U15 / U21 / Girls / Novice / 12st / AW

Saturday September 6th Lowick (3.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW

Sunday Sept 7th Wolsingham (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½ / 14st / AW.

Sun Sept 7th Loweswater (4.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12st / AW

Thursday September 11th Westmorland Show (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies Open / U21-11st / 12st / **13st World Championship** / 14st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES

Although there were a lot of wrestling events in Cumbria, Northumberland and Scotland last week, and wrestlers covered many miles to compete, there was a sense that the sport had gone back to its roots in a lull between major events. Three events on the wrestling calendar give significantly more than two thousand pounds in prize-money each: Grasmere Sports, Rothbury Mart and the Westmorland Show, and they all happen in a heap.

Grasmere, on the Bank Holiday attracted a big attendance of international wrestlers and basked in the sun. The Rothbury Mart wrestling takes place tonight, indoors, with £400 for the winner of the 15st World Championship, and next Thursday the Westmorland Show wrestling programme includes the 13st World Championship with more than £500 for that weight alone.





Last week had many events without a major focus, so the wrestlers supported their local shows. At Crosby Ravensworth and Grayrigg shows, however, the Bretons, Icelanders and Scots, bruised by much competition, supported the final events of their 2014 tour. It was appropriate that the Breton, Gerald Brunou, a veteran of our rings now, after much skilful wrestling at many venues, felled Andrew Carlile in the lightweight final at Grayrigg. Similarly Asmundur Asmundursson ended his tour with a win in the All Weights when he felled Joseph Robson. Ryan Dolan, from Carnoustie also had a good All Weights win to add to his collection this year.

Two days later, four events happened on the same day, and the support given by local wrestlers came into its own. Bellingham Show was typical of the day. When we arrived after attending the wrestling at Newcastleton Show there was nothing but an area cordoned off by rope, chainsaws and loud music for neighbours and a speaker system lying on the ground. Two hours later the crowd that we had gathered still circled the ring to watch and loudly applaud Jason Davidson felling the Heavyweight Champion, Andrew Ord in the last bout of the day.

The Rothbury Academy had brought car-loads of keen youngsters in their club colours to compete at Newcastleton and Bellingham. A million miles away at Millom and Broughton Show it was the Kendal Academy that shone throughout. And in the middle, at Hesketh Newmarket Show, Carlisle Wrestling Club members foregathered; Ben Harrison won his second competition of the day; and Thomas Gibson won again after coming back from a broken ankle, football inflicted.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Crosby Ravensworth

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 13 Years	K Harrison	T Hodgson	J Gibson
Under 16 Years	Joshua Threlfall	T Hayhurst	K Harrison
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	G Tassel	Joshua Threlfall
Ladies	C Hodgson	A Marston	E Johanssdottir
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	A Carlile	B Brocklebank
All Weights	R Dolan	Joe Threlfall	A Asmundursson

Grayrigg

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	T Wilson	L Harrison	R Hodgson
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	K Harrison	J Gibson
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	B Harrison	J Wilson
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	S Wilson	B Harrison
Girls	A Marston	G Coulthard	L Bigley
9 Stone	T Hayhurst	K Harrison	L Hall
11½ Stone	G Brunou	A Carlile	E Tassel

Event	First	Second	Third
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	A Carlile
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	P Sellin	A Marston.
All Weights	A Asmudursson	J Robson	T Brocklebank

Newcastleton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Bates	L Smith	R Hodgson
Under 13 Years	T Davidson	J Harrison	M Bates
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	A Story	F Cansfield
Under 18 Years	Joe Hale	B Harrison	A Story
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	F Waddington	A Marston
12½ Stone	J Brown	Joe Hale	M Harrington
All Weights	R Fox	J Brown	G Denby

Bellingham Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Davidson	M Bates	A Hindmarsh
Under 16 Years	Joe Hale	A Story	T Davidson
Novice	Joe Hale	E Donald	J Coates
Ladies	C Hodgson	F Waddington	L Singer
7 Stone	M Bates	W Hindmarsh	O Scott
9 Stone	A Story	T Davidson	F Cansfield
12 Stone	J Brown	N Munroe	Joe Hale
14 Stone	J Brown	A Sandercock	J Peile
All Weights	J Davidson	A Ord	J Brown

Hesket Newmarket

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	G Coulthard	H Alecock
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	R Armstrong	L Green
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	T Wales	P Potts
Ladies	D Thompson	E Hortin	P Bell
Novice	S Austin	P Potts	S Coburn
12½ Stone	A Carlile	S Coburn	P Potts

Millom and Broughton

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	J Penellum	M Capstick	S Hoccam
Under 12 Years	K Harrison	J Southward	J Guy
Under 15 Years Local	B Chinn	R Albion	J Southward
Under 16 Years	G Wilson	T Hayhurst	B Chinn
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	K Harrison	T Hayhurst
12 Stone	T Hayhurst	R Albion	K Harrison
All Weights	G Brocklebank,	G Wilson	W Hayhurst

September 11th 2014

RYAN DOLAN TAKES THE 15 STONE TROPHY NORTH

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday September 13th Stanhope (1.30) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW World Championship

Sunday September 14th - Whitfield (2.00) - U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday 20th Sept (2.00) Egremont Crab Fair U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 21st September Beamish

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



The Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling event at Rothbury Mart is special in the summer calendar. With prize-money of two and a half thousand pounds, it is equal to Grasmere and the Westmorland Show. Only Rothbury is held indoors on the wrestling mats. The wrestlers compete in a ring where fifty years ago a hundred blackface lambs off the Cheviot Hills would be sold as a single lot. And the other huge difference is that it is a stand-alone wrestling event, not dependent on the support of a host such as an agricultural show.

This year, just to add more spice, the 15st World Championship was on the programme, and the crowds flocked through the doors to fill the tiered seating. From the start there was bound to be a new champion, as the holder, David Barnes, was too heavy to compete.

The three men who fought their way to the semi-finals were all from widely different wrestling backgrounds. Richard Fox from Hethersgill was brought up surrounded by wrestling with a father, brother and cousin all competing. Jack Hale is the product of the latest rebirth of wrestling at Rothbury Academy. And Ryan Dolan of Carnoustie is part of the new focus of Scottish wrestling on the East Coast. All three are dynamic, attacking wrestlers without a passive bone in their bodies.

The semi-final saw Fox, the buttocker, take on Hale, the swinging-hiper, and Fox took the first fall with - you've guessed it - a buttock. Hale then fought back and won the next two falls with big hipes.



In the first fall of the final Ryan Dolan tried time and again to lift Jack Hale on a hipe but failed as the Northumbrian defended too well. In the end a sudden change of plan brought success for the Scot. With Hale hanging back low to



prevent being lifted, suddenly Dolan back-heeled and took the first fall. For the second fall Jack Hale went on the attack and nearly swung Dolan up and away, but the Scot's defence and his long legs came into play and Hale fell to the mat. Ryan Dolan is the 15st Champion.

Twelve categories gave the wrestlers plenty of chances, and right from the start, with tiny Max Bates winning the Under 10s right through to an exhausted Graham Younger just surviving to win the All Weights, the standard of wrestling was superb and kept the big crowd entertained.

The closely fought bouts between Jack Hale and Richard Fox continued at Wolsingham where Jack Hale struck first in the 14 stones but he was felled by Fox in the final of the All Weights. Abi Marston had a good win against bigger opposition at the Mart and then took another win at Loweswater Show to continue her good form. The Harrison family managed to take in two events on the Sunday and Ben Harrison took full advantage to win at both events. And tall Jack Ewart, one of our keenest wrestlers, won the All Weights at Loweswater.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Rothbury Mart

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Bates	N Seton	T Howson
Under 12 Years	G Singer	J Etterley	G Coulthard
Under 14 Years	H Bertram	F Cansfield	T Davidson
Under 17 Years	D Brown	A Melia	G Wilson
Under 21 Years	J Brown	J Hayhurst	Joe Hale
Girls Under 16 Years	A Marston	F Waddington	G Coulthard
9 Stone	A Story	H Dennis	H Bertram
11 Stone	A Carlile	S Wilson	Joe Hale
13 Stone	R Fox	A Sandercock	J Hayhurst
15 Stone World Championship	R Dolan	Jack Hale	R Fox
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	A Marston	K White
All Weights	G Younger	Joe Threlfall	A Ord

Lowick Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	M Harrison	C Ellwood	L Holmes
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	G Chinn	J Guy
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	J Wilson	G Chinn
Under 18 Years	S Wilson	B Chinn	B Wightman
12½ Stone	S Wilson	B Harrison	B Chinn
All Weights	W Hayhurst	B Wightman	S Wilson

Loweswater Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Gibson	H Wilson	R Armstrong
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	B Robinson	R Armstrong
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	B Harrison	K White

Event	First	Second	Third
Ladies	A Marston	L Meier	H Wharton
12½ Stone	T Gibson	L Grove	B Harrison
All Weights	J Ewart	T Robinson	T Gibson

Wolsingham Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	T Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	D Thompson
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	T Hodgson	W Hindmarsh
Under 18 Years	Joe Hale	B Harrison	C Mason
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	A Hindmarsh	J Harrison
11½ Stone	J Brown	C Mason	Joe Hale
14 Stone	Jack Hale	Jack Brown	J Atkinson
All Weights	R Fox	Jack Hale	A Ord

September 18th 2014

FOX AND DOLAN CARRY OFF THE 13 STONE AND ALL WEIGHT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEWS UPDATE

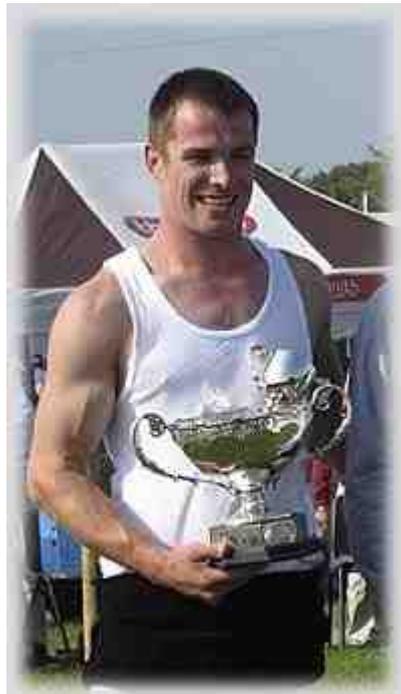
Saturday 20th Sept (2.00) Egremont Crab Fair U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday September 21st Beamish (1.00) U10 / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / 11½st / 13 st / 15st / AW

Saturday September 27th Langholm Show (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday September 27th Eskdale Show (3.00) U15 / U15 - 8st World Championship / U18 / 10½st / 12st / AW

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



Two Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling championships were decided in a period of three days: the 13 stones at the Westmorland Show and the All Weights at Stanhope Show in Weardale. Both were intense affairs with desperate action keeping the crowds fixed in their seats. And much of that intensity and action came from Richard Fox of Hethersgill

At the Westmorland Show he met local favourite, Graham Brocklebank in the semi-final. They battled for hold and in the midst of that, Fox struck with a back-heel for the first fall. In the second the two wrestlers again fought for hold until Fox won with a late buttock. In the final he met Andrew Carlile, nicely warmed up by a win in the 12 stones. Fox's back-heel again came into play for the first fall, but the second fall was a reversal of roles when Carlile went for the back-heel and kept in place. Instead of controlling the situation, the back-heel proved to be a mistake when Fox inside-hiped Carlile with the back-heel still in place. Richard Fox then went on to win the 14 stones in a final with Graham Brocklebank and was awarded the trophy for the best performance of a wonderful day of wrestling.

Two days later at Stanhope Show Andrew Ord defended his All Weights world title which he has held for three years. Unfortunately for him he met his club-mate Jack Hale in full hiping flow in the first round and went out early. Richard Fox was continuing his recent

good form. Having won the 13 stones, he was going well, particularly in the semi-final when he felled heavyweight, Joe Threlfall,



who had signalled his good form by winning the All Weights at the Westmorland Show. In the meantime on the other side of the draw, Ryan Dolan of Carnoustie was showing the class he had demonstrated in winning the 15st Championship at Rothbury. He is an excellent wrestler generally, but his hiping sets him apart. However, his defensive skills were needed when he met Joseph Robson in the second round, and Robson's hank and then buttock bounced off the Scot. In the semi-final against Jimmy Hall of Langwathby his back-heel was the clinching move each time.

In the final with Richard Fox all was level after two falls, but in the decider Fox went for a back-heel and hung low to avoid the hipe. After a brief pause Fox was catapulted skyward with back-heel still in place, and hiped onto his back.

Dolan, at 21 years, holds several Scottish and British titles from 14½ stones upwards. Always exciting to watch he poses particular problems for opponents for he seems to hipe equally well with either leg.



After the high drama of the championship events, it was good to sit round a crowded ring at the much smaller event at Whitfield where the Rothbury Club was present in force. Jack Brown, from just down the road at Langley, won two weights, pushed all the way by Craig Ridley and Joe Hale.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Westmorland County Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	J Guy	T Hodgson
Girls Under 15 Years	A Marston	L Albion	J Harrison
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	M Clarke	T Hayhurst
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	G Wilson	J Wilson
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	D Thompson	V Beatty
Under 21 Years / 11Stone	C Whitfield	T Hayhurst	J Wilson

Event	First	Second	Third
12 Stone	A Carlile	J Wragg	C Whitfield
13 Stone World Championship	R Fox	A Carlile	G Brocklebank
14 Stone	R Fox	G Brocklebank	S Mason
All Weights	Joe Threlfall	J Robson	S Mason

Stanhope Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under10 Years	L Hirsch	M Bates	R Craig
Under 12 Years	R Bullock	J Harrison	T Hodgson
Under 15 Years	C Whitfield	L Rutherford	A Story
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	C Whitfield	L Rutherford
Ladies	C Hodgson	J Harrison	L Hirsch
11½ Stone	J Brown	C Whitfield	B Harrison
13 Stone	R Fox	T Gibson	J Brown
All Weights World Championship	R Dolan	R Fox	J Hall

Whitfield

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	T Davidson	J Coulthard
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	C Whitfield	R Bullock
Under18 Years	Joe Hale	B Harrison	T Gibson
Ladies	A Marston	G Coulthard	Z Marston
12½ Stone	J Brown	C Ridley	Joe Hale
All Weights	J Brown	Joe Hale	T Gibson

September 25th 2014

JACK BROWN AND RICHARD FOX CONTINUE THEIR WINNING STREAK

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday September 27th Langholm Show (12.00) U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

Saturday September 27th Eskdale Show (3.00) U15 / U15 - 8st World Championship / U18 / 10½st / 12st / AW

Saturday October 11th Alwinton (1230) U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / Girls U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / AW

Saturday October 11th Wasdale Head (4.00) U11 / U12 / U13 / U15 / U18 / 10½st / 12st / AW

NB. THERE WILL BE NO WRESTLING AT BUTTERMERE THIS YEAR

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES

Jack Brown and Richard Fox have each had a successful season and they continued to be the main winners last weekend. At Egremont on Saturday they each appeared in two finals with Fox coming out ahead with two wins, in the 13 stones where he kept Brown firmly in check, and in the All Weights where his strong back heels accounted for his Carlisle club mate Jack Ewart. There was a slight wobble when Ewart attacked from the off in the first hold, and caught Fox with a buttock. Cyril Bragg had no hesitation in awarding Fox the Guinness Trophy for the most meritorious performance in the wrestling.

The junior wrestling had a good entry of locals, as is usual at Egremont, who figured prominently in the prize list, though the experience of Thomas Gibson from Southwaite and Abi Marston of Smithfield shone through in the Under 18 and Ladies classes respectively.

On Sunday the action moved to the eastern fringes of our area with the Agricultural Show at Beamish and here Jack Brown was again prominent appearing in all four senior finals, winning the 11½ and 13 stones classes, but having to give way to heavier opponents in the 15 stones and the All Weights. In the lighter weights he had too much know how for the Wragg brothers from Rothbury. In the heavier weights he fell short against Jason Davidson in the 15 stones, though he then beat him in the first round of the All Weights, and then against the Kendal heavyweight William Hayhurst in the last final of the day.

In the juniors there was a pleasing double for Matty Hodgson, one of the youngest wrestlers on the circuit. Matty is often "up against it" age wise but there is no doubting the classy style he displays, learnt during regular attendance at the Carlisle club through the winter.

After that the Rothbury contingent took over with Cade Whitfield, one of this year's most improved wrestlers, Charlie Carlisle and Freya Waddington taking the main prizes.

This weekend sees the last of our annual Championships up for grabs. Eskdale Show is hosting the Under 15 years/Under 8 stones Championship giving some of our youngest, and lightest, wrestlers the opportunity to put some silverware on the sideboard until next season.

Earlier in the day, starting at midday, there is the usual wrestling at the other Eskdale Show, over the border in Langholm. In a fortnight's time the curtain will be brought down on the grass season with events at Alwinton, which has £1600 of prize money on offer, and Wasdale Head. There will be no wrestling at Buttermere this year

© Written by Alf Harrison..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson or Linda Scott (2014)

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Egremont Crab Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	T Moore	E Monty
Under 15 Years	B Kane	H Wilson	T Short
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	B Weightman	A James
Ladies Open	A Marston	C Wilson	L Meier
11½ Stone	J Brown	D Miller	R Blacklock
13 Stone	R Fox	J Brown	D Miller
All Weights	R Fox	J Ewart	C Naylor

Beamish Agricultural Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	M Hodgson	W Hindmarsh	M Carlile
Under 12 Years	M Hodgson	A Hindmarsh	J Harrison
Under 15 Years	C Whitfield	B Harrison	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	C Carlisle	J Hale	M Lamont
Girls Under 15 Years	F Waddington	S Lamont	A Hindmarsh
Ladies	F Waddington	K Swann	B Lamont
11½ Stone	J Brown	A Wragg	A Carlile
13 Stone	J Brown	J Wragg	J Hale
15 Stone	J Davidson	J Brown	A Carlile
All Weights	W Hayhurst	J Brown	J Hale

October 3rd 2014

HARRY BERTRAM CLAIMS THE UNDER 15 / 8 STONE CHAMPIONSHIP

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday October 11th Alwinton (1230) U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / Girls U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / AW

Saturday October 11th Wasdale Head (4.00) U11 / U12 / U13 / U15 / U18 / 10½st / 12st / AW

NB. THERE WILL BE NO WRESTLING AT BUTTERMERE THIS YEAR

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES



One of the longest journeys of the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season was worthwhile for Harry Bertram when he travelled from Rothbury in North Northumberland to Eskdale in the SW Lakes to compete in the Under 15 Years/ 8st Championship. He dominated the final against Mark Wharton of Carlisle to claim the title and fulfil the promise he has shown over the years as a strong young wrestler who goes for his chips.

Earlier in the year at Powburn Show he entertained the crowd before the main wrestling by taking on the popstar, actor and TV presenter Robson Green who was filming for a second series of Tales of Northumberland. Although much lighter and younger, Harry fought a good battle with the crowd urging him on until he felled his man. The programme is due to be shown on ITV in February, but already that bout is on You Tube on the internet.

In general, last week's wrestling at both Langholm Show and Eskdale was a celebration of the smaller wrestler punching above his weight.

At Langholm John Gibson missed out in the younger age group, but then went on to fell Ryan Armstrong in the final of the Under 15s.



In the men's wrestling Andrew Carlile was felled by Jack Brown in the final of the 12½ stones, but used that as a wake-up call to raise his game in the All Weights where he turned the tables on Brown and then, against the odds, felled Richard Fox in the semi-finals to set up a straightforward final with Thomas Gibson. The key to Carlile's success was excellent defence, followed up by simple back-heels.



At Eskdale the main man was Paul Murray who shows his Jacob sheep first and wrestles afterwards. He won both the 10½ and 12 stones with the best display we have seen from him since his shoulder injury in an international match some years ago. The 12st

final with James Wilson was particularly tough, with five bouts needed to separate the wrestlers. Murray finished the job with an all-out hipe.

One of the best wrestlers of the day never reached a final. Alfie Story came third in no fewer than four categories. Time and again he was felling much bigger and heavier opposition to qualify for a pat on the back from his father.

Craig Naylor heard that he had won the Collie dog Show while taking hold for the final of the All Weights wrestling with William Hayhurst. He took the first fall with a sudden buttock, but then Hayhurst remembered what his granddad always shouted at him, took a strong hold and twisted Naylor over his knee, twice.

Another granddad (me) was well pleased when Gemma Coulthard continued her good form in the Under 12s at Langholm beating Ryan Armstrong on her way to the final. In another fortnight her twelfth birthday will call a halt on her competing against lads in the ring.



There will be no wrestling at Buttermere this year!

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Langholm Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	M Hodgson	R Armstrong
Under 15 Years	J Gibson	R Armstrong	M Hodgson
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	J Gibson	R Armstrong
Ladies	A Marston	G Coulthard	R Hodgson
12½ Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	T Gibson
All Weights	A Carlile	T Gibson	R Fox

Eskdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
* Under 12 Years	H Wilson	J Connor	C Wharton
Under 15 Years / 8 Stone Championship	H Bertram	M Wharton	A Story
Under 15 Years	G Wilson	B Harrison	A Story
Under 18 Years	G Wilson	J Killip	A Story
10½ Stone	P Murray	B Harrison	J Wilson
12 Stone	P Murray	J Wilson	A Story
All Weights	W Hayhurst	C Naylor	G Wilson

October 9th 2014

NEWS UPDATE

Saturday October 11th Alwinton (1230) U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / Girls U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 14st / AW

Saturday October 11th Wasdale Head (4.00) U11 / U12 / U13 / U15 / U18 / 10½st / 12st / AW

Wednesday 15th October (7.30) Carlisle Wrestling Club Opening Night, Currock Community Centre.

Wednesday 22nd October Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night.

Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall Friday 7th November Tickets £20 Juniors £10

THE FULL LIST OF WRESTLING VENUES

Winter is here....at least it will be on Saturday evening when the crowds have gone home from the last wrestling rings of the 2014 Cumberland and Westmorland Grass Season and there is nothing left but Carlisle United and chopping logs for week-end entertainment.

Alwinton Show, in the Cheviot Hills, is an ancient sheep show that has always had wrestling as part of its heritage. Its place as a major event on the wrestling calendar is sustained by the efforts of Jimmy Pringle, Darren Whitfield and the Rothbury Academy who canvass hard for wrestlers and good prize money. Wasdale Head is another sheep show with a long tradition, well lost in the Lake District Fells beside England's deepest lake and highest mountain. For Craig Naylor, Joss's grandson, the wrestling is right on his doorstep and handy for the young lads he trains at Waberthwaite Academy.

After that, the focus will be on indoor events and training. Several events bring the wrestling world together in the Winter season. The CWWA Presentation Dinner on 7th November rewards the most prolific winners over the last season with Victor Ludorum trophies. The Academy Shield competition is due before the end of the year, but no date is yet fixed. The annual slide show which brings together images of over forty events is pencilled in for the 7th December at Currock House when wrestlers and fans can look back at the 2014 season, and buy a CD for a Christmas present.

The Scottish Wrestling Bond has issued a warm invitation to its Scottish Open 2014 which is held in Bellcraig Community Centre in Glasgow on Sunday, 2nd November, and offers many categories at Under 15 and Under 21 Years, and Seniors. Already Darren Whitfield is trying to find out how many wrestlers and fans want to travel to Brittany for their Back-hold Championships on February 28th 2015. For several years our wrestlers have been regular participants at this event, and have enjoyed the team spirit it engenders in a very individual sport. The Breton hospitality helps, too.

The Annual General Meeting of Carlisle Wrestling Club this week looked forward to a bumper indoor season with new young wrestlers likely to swell the numbers after parents made contact at the various events through the year. An excellent problem which was discussed was how to integrate the influx of wrestlers from the Young Farmers' Clubs who practise for the Field Day. Last year there were times when too many appeared at short notice on the same night. Many regular young wrestlers at the wrestling club are also Young Farmers, but the problem arises when novices come in bulk to qualify to compete in the Field Day.



The first night of training starts next Wednesday evening at 7.30 in the Currock House Gym, and a week later comes the first Junior Points Night of internal competitive wrestling. Carlisle Wrestling Club has three of the best qualified coaches available: Tom Harrington MBE, a founder member of the present club in 1970; Alan Jones, a prolific champion in his day, who still managed to turn out in earnest in the 14st Championship at Gilsland this year; and Andrew Carlile, the present holder of the 10½ and 12st Championships, a brilliant wrestler at the height of his powers.

October 16th 2014

THE FINAL BOUTS OF THE 2014 WRESTLING SEASON

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday 22nd October - Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night.

Wednesday 29th October - Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night

Friday 7th November - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall Tickets £20 Juniors £10



One man stood head and shoulders above the other wrestlers at Alwinton Show. In the final bouts of the 2014 season, Richard Fox was unbeatable in the 14 Stones and the All Weights. In each final his opponent was Frazer Hirsch from Carnoustie, who combines his active wrestling with the role of President of the Scottish Wrestling Bond and his leadership of the Carnoustie Backhold Wrestling Club, had to get past Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge to reach the 14st final, and in the All Weights felled the Preston heavyweight, Joe Threlfall, in his way to the final.



Richard Fox is a noted exponent of the buttock, but, more and more, he keeps his major weapon in reserve while he bustles and hipes and twists his opponents into the ground. At Alwinton the back-heel inflicted the main damage. As Hirsch came in close and low to defend against hipes and twists, Fox simply and determinedly chopped out his opponent's leg with a strongly applied back-heel. Only in the last bout of the season did Fox allow himself the luxury of a buttock, a bit rough this time, but effective.



Another double winner was Jack Brown who came first in the Under 21s and then the 11½ stones. In the 11½ stones his bout against the Carlisle Wrestling Club Coach, Andrew Carlile, he deployed a move that he has patented as his own. Usually he is

seeking to use his height to lift and hipe, but near the ground he is able to stiffen his body, spread his legs so wide that he cannot be turned, and stay bridged against his opponents till they collapse.

Another tall wrestler, Freya Waddington, had a double win in the female wrestling, but she was pushed all the way by the much slighter Abi Marston, who travels widely to compete.

A notable final came in the Under 13 years when two grandsons of Kenny Davidson met. One grandson was the very local Thomas Davidson, one of the most improved wrestlers this season; the other was far-travelled Innes Davidson up from Somerset for the occasion and newly returned from a good performance in the Alwinton Hill Race. Thomas took the lead with a hipe and back heel, but the comparatively untrained Innes took the next two falls.

Meanwhile, a hundred miles away in Herdwick country, at Wasdale Show, the flower of Waberththwaite Academy kept the crowd entertained. Harry Wilson in the boys classes and Paul Murray in the men's both won twice. But the final word of the day and season went to Craig Naylor, grandson of Joss, who took the All Weights honours in the wonderful valley where he lives and works.

Now all that is left is to count up all the points from the season, which began in early May at Hethersgill Vintage Rally, to allocate the Victor Ludorum trophies at the Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner on November 7th.

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Alwinton Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	W Hindmarsh	B White	D Waddington
Under 13 Years	I Davidson	T Davidson	A McAdam
Under 16 Years	Joe Hale,	C Whitfield	T Gibson
Girls Under 16 Years	F Waddington	A Hindmarsh	A Marston
Under 21 Years	J Brown	Joshua Threlfall	T Gibson
Ladies Open	<i>F Waddington (click for image)</i>	<i>A Marston (click for image)</i>	T Bertram
11½ Stone	J Brown	B Harrison	A Carlile
14 Stone	R Fox	F Hirsch	T Gibson
All Weights	R Fox	F Hirsch	A Ord

Wasdale Head Show

Event	First	Second	Third
Under11 Years	I Knowles,	T Benson	J Penellum
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	J Penellum	J Connor
Under 13 Years	H Wilson	L Tyson	J Connor
Under 15 Years	C Connor	W Proctor	J Connor
Under 18 Years	J Wilson	J Nicholl	D Connor
Ladies Open	L Meier	S Fowler	S Tyler
10½ Stone	P Murray	J Wilson	D Connor
12 Stone	P Murray	J Wilson	D Connor
All Weights	C Naylor	P Murray	J Wilson

October 23rd 2014

JUNIOR POINTS NIGHT AT CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday 29th October - Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night 11½st / 13st / AW

Sunday 2nd November Scottish Open, Bellcraig Community Centre, Glasgow G23 5QA, Juniors weigh in 9am to 10am. Numerous categories, male and female, at Under 15 Years, Under 21 Years and Seniors.

Friday 7th November - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall Tickets £20 Juniors £10

The Gymnasium at Currock House was filled with eager young wrestlers for the first Junior Points Night of the Winter. Carlisle Wrestling Club mainly sets out to train youngsters in the arts and techniques of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling, but a bit of competitive spice helps along the way.



On the second Wednesday of every month until March members will be wrestling for points which go towards trophies for the most successful competitors over the indoor season. A bit of prize-money helps, too.

Matty Hodgson had a dream start by winning the first category, reaching the final of the Under 12 Years, and gaining the Victor Ludorum trophy for the night as the best wrestler in all sections. He caught the eye of the judges with a couple of spectacular right crosses against heavier opposition.

Abi Marston was the expected winner of the girls competitions, but she also competed hard against the lads and even reached the final of the Under 15 Years against Alfie Story. Alfie is well known on the wrestling circuit as a tough wrestler who never knows when he is beaten. Thomas Wales got the better of him in the 10 stones final but went down in the sudden death rounds of the



Under 18s. Just to make things tougher, Alfie also brought along his older brother, Archie, who lacks a little in technique but compensates by strength and determined attacks.

Now that Gemma Coulthard has had her twelfth birthday the way was clear for Ryan Armstrong to dominate the Under 12s. He is wrestling with more confidence and purpose than ever. And finally, Thomas Gibson was going well in the Under 18s. Leaner and taller, he goes for his trips with zest, and finished the night off with a flourish when he hiped Alfie Story and then dived to land on top of him before the Northumbrian could recover his feet.

Next week is the turn of the men for their first Points Night of the winter season.



In Scotland, too, the action is moving indoors and we have been invited to their Scottish Open event which offers a host of categories at Under 15, Under 21 and Seniors.

Any English wrestler, male or female, willing to travel up to Glasgow early on Sunday the 2nd November would find a suitable category in the list and a hearty welcome from the hosts. Wrestling coaches at our five academies have details.

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	M Hodgson	V Davidson	J Gibson	J Harrison
7 Stone	J Gibson	J Harrison	S Baglee	C Wharton
8½ Stone	Alfie Story	M Wharton	R Armstrong	S Baglee
Girls 8½ Stone	A Marston	J Harrison	J Wharton	
10 Stone	T Wales	Alfie Story	Archie Story	A Marston
Under12 Years	R Armstrong	M Hodgson	V Davidson	J Gibson
Under15 Years	Alfie Story	A Marston	B Harrison	G Coulthard
Girls Open	A Marston	G Coulthard	J Harrison	M Harrison
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	Alfie Story	Archie Story	B Harrison
Best Performance	Matty Hodgson			

October 30th 2014

CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB MEN'S POINTS COMPETITION

NEWS UPDATE

Sunday 2nd November Scottish Open, Bellcraig Community Centre, Glasgow G23 5QA, Juniors weigh in 9am to 10am. Numerous categories, male and female, at Under 15 Years, Under 21 Years and Seniors.

Friday 7th November - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner at Low Heskett Village Hall Tickets £20 Juniors £10
Tickets from Alf Harrington Phone 01228 576675

The first men's points competition of the indoor season at the Carlisle club took place on Wednesday with, unfortunately, a number of wrestlers absent. Richard Fox and Jack Brown, both stars of the grass season just ended, along with John Harrington and the Miller brothers, David and Keiran, were unable to attend.

Two of our younger wrestlers, Thomas Gibson and Ben Harrison, took the opportunity to try their hand against senior competitors and in the process gain some invaluable experience that will stand them in good stead for the future. Thomas had missed much of last season with a broken ankle sustained in a playground kick-about, while Ben is relatively new to the sport, having started to compete during this year's grass season and immediately making his mark in the junior classes. So both were eager to test themselves, having spent the previous hour fine-tuning their back heel and buttocking skills under the tuition of Tom Harrington and Andrew Carlile along with fifteen other youngsters.

The lightweight section was a straight shoot out between Ben and coach Andrew Carlile, a double Champion this year. Not surprisingly experience was the winner.

The middleweights saw Thomas added to the list and again the exuberance of youth had to give way to experience though both youngsters are to be applauded for their efforts.

The heavyweights section was beefed up by the introduction of Jack Ewart and the substantial frame of Jimmy Hall. In the round robin system both Jimmy and Andrew had progressed through undefeated until the last bout of the evening paired them together. The first fall saw Jimmy use his strength and weight advantage, taking the hold and finishing off with a well executed left leg inside hipe. The second fall was a different affair as Andrew set about him with a barrage of attempted buttocks before Jimmy was able to

reassert control and push the lighter man to the canvas.



There are two events of note in the next week.

This weekend, there is the Scottish Indoor Backhold Championships at Bellcraig Community Centre in Glasgow. The competition which starts at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning includes various weight categories at under 15, under 21 and senior level for both male and female wrestlers. The weigh-in for juniors is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and for seniors from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The following Friday we have our Annual presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall where we pay tribute to all our wrestlers and hand out the awards to the most successful over the last season.**Tickets are still available!**

© Written by Alf Harrington

Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Competition

Event	First	Second	Third
11½ Stone	Andrew Carlile	Ben Harrison	
13 Stone	Andrew Carlile	Thomas Gibson	Ben Harrison
All Weights	James Hall	Andrew Carlile	Jack Ewart

November 6th 2014

'THE WRESTLERS WHO CAME TO THE COMPETITION FROM CARLISLE HAD A GREAT DAY AND DID EXCEPTIONALLY WELL.'

NEWS UPDATE

Friday 7th November - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner at Low Hesket Village Hall Tickets £20 Juniors £10. Tickets from Alf Harrington Phone 01228 576675

Wednesday 12th November Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Wednesday 19th November Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night

The comment was from Gordon Mackie the organizer of the event; And the wrestlers were Jack Brown and Alfie Story who both come from the Hexhamshire area and train at Carlisle Wrestling Club.



The competition was the Scottish Open Indoor Backhold Wrestling Championships held in Glasgow's

Bellcraig Community Centre.

The Scots use a pool system and then cross-ties, wrestling best-of-five all the way, so the competition was long-drawn out and stamina sapping. Despite this, the English invaders kept going through all the bouts and came away with multiple wins. Alfie Story, aged fourteen, gained his main success in the Under 15 Years/8½st when he felled Sam McRory of the Carnoustie Wrestling Club. After that in higher weights and ages, he gained four second places, beaten in the final each time by Ben Johnstone of the Hamilton Wrestling Club. A lightweight wrestler who will have to wait for his true potential when he reaches the men's events in a few years time. Story is a master of survival and defence because he is so often meeting bigger opposition. At Eskdale Show he did not win events, but gained more applause and surprise falls than any other wrestler.



Jack Brown, the CWWA 11st World Champion at the age of nineteen, had an even better day, winning all four of the weights he was allowed to enter, including the Open events at 11½st and 13st. His main problem was some wheeziness from a recent lung infection, but he showed off his full repertoire of chips and particularly his hipes. The Scots obviously appreciated his skills, for he returned home with a trophy for Best Overall Performance. His job as a farrier has prevented him from attending some midweek events, but has furnished him with extra muscle power this year.

Other wrestlers well known south of the Border had their successes, particularly Frazer Hirsch and Ryan Dolan, who met in the final of the 15½st Open final. Dolan also went on to win the Open All Weights competition, which is all appropriate as he is our 15½st and All Weights Champion, too.

The time and place of our premier winter event, the Academy Shield hosted by Waberthwaite Academy, has been fixed for Saturday, 29th November at Bootle Station Village Hall, so all the academies must turn their attention to picking, and sometimes finding, teams to represent them at the event and turn up to be weighed in at 7pm.

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November 13th 2014

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND WRESTLING ASSOCIATION TROPHY NIGHT

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday 19th November Carlisle Wrestling Club Men's Points Night.

Wrestlers and supporters from all corners of Cumbria and Northumberland converged on Low Hesket Village Hall for a feast and the craic, but mainly to honour the best performances from the 2014 Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Season. Points are awarded for the first three places in every affiliated competition from May to October and then totalled to reveal the most prolific winners in seven different categories. Skill and persistence win the day.



The youngest category, the Under 12 Years, created a problem for Alf Harrington, the CWWA Secretary, for instead of engraving



the trophy "Victor Ludorum", the winner of the games, he had to polish his Latin and change it to "Victrix", for the winner for the first time was a girl: Gemma Coulthard, a farmer's daughter from Rosley. Initially in 2011 she sat on the sidelines at Carlisle Wrestling Club too shy to put a toe on the mat until Tom Harrington gently got her involved. At the Northumberland Show 2012 she was in a funk about competing in the ring until her mother extravagantly bribed her. Two years later she is a confident young girl who enjoyed more and more success as the season progressed.

Initially, Mark Wharton was winning everywhere, but hit his twelfth birthday just after a successful day at Ambleside sports. Then Ryan Armstrong proved a strong rival in August, but his challenge faded and Gemma amassed 49 points and nine wins, including Grasmere and the Westmorland Show.

George Wilson of Kendal Academy is a tall, strong young man, yet still able to compete in the Boys Under 15 Years. His complete dominance of the boys' wrestling was such that he also won the Boys Under 18 Years Trophy. In the younger category he won the Under 15 Championship at Penrith Show from a huge entry. In all he gained twenty wins at under 15 years.

There were wrestlers to fell him in the Under 18s, for James Hayhurst was capable of winning whenever he turned out; Sam Wilson, George's cousin, troubled him at first, but a more determined attitude kicked in half-way through the season and George eased ahead. Another potential rival, Thomas Gibson, broke his leg in the school yard and missed the mid-season wrestling. Joe Hale dominated in Northumberland. Despite all this George accumulated 16 wins with his hiping and new found confidence.

The Ladies' trophy seemed wide open this year. Previous winner, Connie Hodgson, was missing for much of the season when she went to the USA to coach sport at a Summer Camp, but on her return she won ten events straight off. Donna Thompson was capable of winning whenever she wrestled. The tall Freya Waddington was dominant in Northumberland. Anna Coulthard at last took to the ring and had immediate success. But the clear winner of the trophy was a much slighter and younger wrestler, Abi Marston, who travelled furthest, and also took good falls from bigger opposition. When the Bretons were here she worked out how to fell them. She had success against Freya Waddington. She won the 10 stones at Grasmere. With 79 points she was the clearest winner of them all.

At the dinner, active wrestlers vote for a prestigious award, the Wrestlers' Wrestler, and this went to Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge. It was no wonder really, for he was the winner of both the Lightweights and the Middleweights Victor Ludorum Trophies, and came second in the Heavyweights. Standing at well over six feet and weighing a sinewy 11 stones, he is fit to fell anyone. Add to that many years of training and a huge mileage following the sport and you have a worthy winner. His job as the stereo-typical strong man, the blacksmith, puts a few more rivets in his armour.

His main rival was Andrew Carlile, the 10½st and 12st Champion who pushed him hard in both categories. John Harrington went out of the reckoning when he broke his leg at Allendale, and the likes of Graham Brocklebank and Richard Fox were restricted by their weight to competing only in the 13 stones.

Richard Fox, though, still came away with a trophy for he headed the heavyweights. In a year of glorious success he won the Guinness trophies for the best performance in all the wrestling at the Cumberland Show, Grasmere, Keswick and Egremont Crab Fair; and the 13st Championship at the Westmorland Show. For the Heavyweights Trophy he scored 59 points

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November 20th 2014

JUNIOR POINTS NIGHT AT CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB

NEWS UPDATE

THE ACADEMY SHIELD EVENT SCHEDULED FOR BOOTLE STATION ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29th HAS BEEN CANCELLED. AN ALTERNATIVE DATE IS BEING INVESTIGATED.



Alfie Story took home the Best Performance trophy from the second Junior points Night at Carlisle Wrestling Club, with two wins and a second place. His win in the 8½ stones was not unexpected, but when he moved up to the 10st category, he came up against the tall frame of Thomas Wales who has been going well this year. Wales tried to use his height advantage, but in the end it was Story who got under his man and took him away on a startling hipec - the fall of the night.



The Harrison family from Abbeytown were prominent in the action. Jack set the ball rolling with a win in the lightest weight, the 6 stones; then Big brother Ben later in the night felled the all conquering Alfie Story in the semi-final of the Under 15 Years. The two wrestlers were falling to the ground backwards with Story looking like the odds-on winner, when Harrison struck with a hank which lifted him up and sent Story down to the mat.

The Gibson family, too, had their successes, with John winning the final of the 7 stones despite losing the first fall to Connor Wharton's lethal back-heel. Thomas Gibson's weight and age kept him sitting around all night whilst the others competed, but eventually the Under 18s arrived and he fulfilled his potential by hipping Alfie Story twice in the final.

Abi Marston also had a good night, easily winning the female categories, but also playing a full part against the lads, coming second in the 8½ stones. Her wrist had troubled her for much of the night and was bad enough for her mother to take her to A&E at Carlisle Infirmary from where she eventually reached her bed at 1am. Fortunately the trouble was only muscular strain, and she was back in action at the next training night.

At that session two excitements occurred: the wrestle-off for places in the Carlisle team for the 6 and 7st categories at the Academy Shield, and a battle of the generations. Carlisle Wrestling Club is rich in talent in the lightest boys categories, so the only fair way to decide on the team places was two round-robins. The results ebbed and flowed, but in the end Matty Hodgson was best at 6 stones and Jack Harrison at 7 stones.

The Battle of the Generations arose when Board Member Paul Gibson, who is old enough to know better, thought he could still fell his son Thomas. After much effort and surrounded by cheers and laughter, Youth, of course, triumphed.

Two excellent trips are on offer to wrestlers in the coming year: Rothbury Academy hopes to organise a bus for the Breton Backhold Championships for the 28th February 2015. **Contact them** immediately if interested. And the Cornish wrestlers would like a few of our wrestlers to demonstrate our style alongside theirs at the Royal Cornish Show in early July all expenses paid. Anyone interested, **contact me**

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Results

(* signifies 'not eligible' for The Victor Ludorum 2014)

Carlisle Wrestling Club November Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	Jack Harrison	J Gibson	M Hodgson	J Wharton
7 Stone	J Gibson	C Wharton	J Wharton	J Harrison
8½ Stone	A Story	A Marston	R Armstrong	M Wharton
Girls 8½ Stone	A Marston	Jenny Harrison		

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
10 Stone	A Story	G Coulthard	T Wales	A Marston
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	Jack Harrison	S Baglee	J Gibson
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	M Wharton	A Marston	Jack Harrison
Open Girls	A Marston	Jennie Harrison	G Coulthard	
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	A Story	T Wales	B Harrison
Best Performance	Alfie Story			

November 27th 2014

THE 2014 ACADEMY SHIELD WILL NOT TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 29TH AS ADVERTISED



In previous years bad weather has led to disruption of the event, but this year's "perfect storm" did not involve hail, snow and hurricane, but came from accumulating difficulties of team selection.

Kendal Academy coach, John Wilson, has been inundated with young wrestlers this winter season and felt that he needed more time to settle things down before choosing a team. David Parsons at Milnthorpe Academy has always run a smaller operation, and is better able to produce a team later in the indoor season. Darren Whitfield, organiser of the Rothbury Academy, a hundred miles from the host club, Waberthwaite, was needing to draw his senior wrestlers back from university to complete his team, and had reservations about doing so if after all the effort, they only had a couple of bouts. And both Waberthwaite and Carlisle were having problems in filling the heavier places.

As a result the Academy Shield has been put on hold for the moment.



The Academy Shield was originally the trophy for the winners of the Academy League in the years immediately after the Second World War when wrestling boomed with 120 affiliated events and a dozen academies in action. The competition produced huge excitement and activity in the wrestling world, with bus-loads of wrestlers and fans attending the home-and-away fixtures. Sadly, the frenzy fizzled out after about ten years. Organisers were constantly let down by wrestlers and there were too many half-filled buses and half-filled teams.

For twenty three years the fine trophy went missing, presumed lost, until it turned up in the Association Secretary, Billy Edgar's attic and the Governing Board set about organising a new version of the old competition. My report in the Cumberland News of November 5th, 1983, commented, "A suitable competition for which the shield would be the trophy was difficult to devise to give the four academies a fair chance of success."

“Only Carlisle and St Michael’s would be able to turn out the sort of team that contested the league 30 years ago. Mrs Dorothy Clarke suggested holding a single competition night for the shield with the clubs taking turns to stage it, and I was given the task of drafting proposals for a suitable competition.”

The new format was determinedly different to the original to cut out sharp practices, and to give youngsters an equal chance to shine and contribute to the team’s fortunes. In the series of round-robin categories every single winning fall counted towards the final total. Already, the reborn Shield competition has lasted three times as long as its original concept.

For the whole of the 1960s, Kendal was the only functioning academy, but from 1970 there was a revival, until now we have five academies training the new generation of wrestlers. Once upon a time academies were all about the men-folk of an area, but now the mats are full of youngsters, boys and girls. The scene is different but the Academy Shield still has a significant part to play.

The annual slide show of the wrestling season will take place at Currock House, Carlisle at 7.30 on Sunday 7th December. Images of no fewer than 44 events will be on show, and the DVD will be on sale afterwards for potential Christmas presents, all profits to the Wrestling Association

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December 4th 2014

WRESTLING WITH THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING THE SPORT ALIVE

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday, 10th December Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Wednesday, 17th December Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior points Night.

Wrestling is one of the cheapest and most natural sports known to man. At its most basic there is no specialist equipment, and no expensive infrastructure. Not surprisingly, there is evidence that wrestling was widespread in medieval England with all sorts of regional variations. Carvings on the underside of Cathedral choir-stalls, and marginalia on early hand-written religious books confirm the popularity of wrestling.

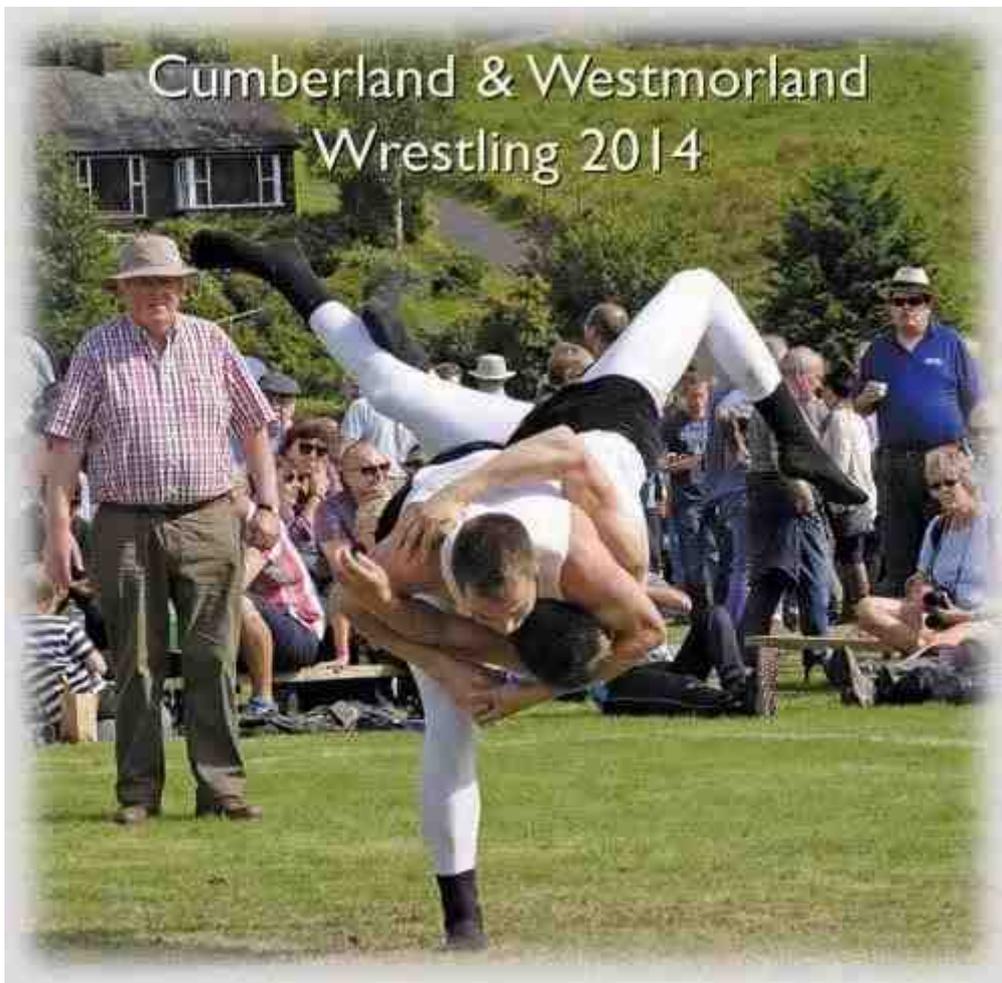
All that remains of that ubiquitous sport is our Cumberland and Westmorland style in the Northern Counties, a few Cornish wrestlers keeping the flickering flames of their style alive, and a day's shin-kicking at the Cotswold Games at Chipping Camden

This week a voice from the past rang me from Cornwall, Ken Cocks from St Austell. Over forty years ago I met him when I competed for a couple of years in Cornwall, and now he had a problem and wondered how we were coping. Despite lobbying by local MPs, a law on licensing public wrestling events was passed recently. Graeco-Roman and Olympic Freestyle wrestling were given a derogation, but Cornish and Cumbrian wrestling were specifically included. For us the licensing is done through our host events, usually agricultural shows, except for the Rothbury Mart which is our only stand-alone event, so the law had minimal effect. Our conversation widened, and I found out that Cornish wrestling is going through hard times. Ken thought that last year was *“the worst for forty years”*. Only seven events remain of which only one gives prize-money, two clubs teeter on, and there is a deep schism between factions in the sport. They survive by affiliating to the British Wrestling Association who provide insurance cover and coaching accreditation. This connection also meant that they were able to source a grant of £10,000 from Sport England to provide coaching in schools, but that led to dissent and division.

We may have our difficulties, but this summer we had 56 affiliated events, and this winter we have five academies, spread through Northumberland and Cumbria. We have excellent links with the Scottish wrestlers and with the Bretons. And there is a sense that we have a great crop of young wrestlers gracing our rings and training on the indoor mats.

Perhaps the basic problem is that Cornish wrestling has not adapted as much as we have in the past twenty years. A comment from Ken reminded me about how long the bouts were and how defensive the style. For long periods of time the wrestlers may be tied up in the canvas jacket and holding their man off with a stockade of elbows.

Two changes have enhanced C&W wrestling in the last thirty years: firstly, a simple change of the laws eradicated the interminable fighting for hold even before the bout began; and secondly, the present coaches have inspired young wrestlers to win by attacking rather than being passive and defensive.



The result can be seen in the annual slide-show organised by Carlisle Wrestling Club at Currock House at 7.30 on Sunday, 7th December when 45 of the events feature in the display. A CD of the season in pictures and words is available as an unusual Christmas present. All are welcome.

December 11th 2014

CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB - DECEMBER JUNIOR POINTS NIGHT

NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday, 17th December (8.30pm) - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior points Night.

Chateau Robson is in disorder because I decided to tidy up. For forty years my bookshelves have coped with all the accumulation of sports programmes, magazines, cuttings books, photographs, valuable books and grotty books, all somehow linked to Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling.

Recently, though, they became difficult to extract and impossible to return; the end of the shelves bowed under the strain. Something had to be done.



The first part, the building of the new shelves, was easy. The real problem came when I tried to bring order to the chaos of the material, not helped by my chronic inability to pass by anything remotely interesting. For a minority sport, our wrestling has, for two hundred years, been well documented. The famous engraver, Thomas Bewick's memoirs and his image of wrestlers on a fell top predate Queen Victoria, as did William Litt's "Wrestliana". More recently is the steady stream of articles in "Lakescene", "Cumbria Life", "The Scots Magazine" and even the "Bewcastle Journal".



Luckily, I was able to escape the dust and dry print, to watch the real thing at Carlisle Wrestling Club's Junior Points Night. During a simple night of competitive wrestling the young athletes provided action and novelty. Abi Marston was awarded the best performance trophy in all the categories because she refused to sit down. On three occasions she appeared to have lost a fall as her opponent lowered her backwards to the ground, but she somehow managed to keep going. She and Alfie Story moved at speed backwards right across the Gym with Abi's backside inches from the mat before she eventually succumbed. Against Gemma Coulthard she stayed up long enough to win. The judges may also have been impressed by her swinging hipes and outside-strokes.

John Gibson and Alfie Story were also on good form, winning two categories each. Ben Harrison had an excellent win in the Under 15s when he managed to hank both of Alfie Story's legs for the first fall in the final and won the second by changing from the hank to the inside-click in mid wrestle. Ryan Armstrong and Thomas Gibson used all their superior height and weight to hipe the opposition and win their sections.

The skills of our young wrestlers are identical to those which have excited onlookers for centuries, and are documented on my new bookshelves.

Written by Roger Robson..... © Photographs by Roger Robson, Jill Robson, Julian Richardson or Linda Scott (2014)

Carlisle Wrestling Club December Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	J Gibson	J Harrison	J Wharton	V Davidson
7 Stone	J Gibson	J Harrison	C Wharton	J Wharton
8½ Stone	A Story	A Marston	R Armstrong;	M Wharton
Girls 8½ Stone	A Marston	M Harrison		
10 Stone	A Story	A Marston	G Coulthard	M Wharton
Under 12 Years	R Armstrong	J Gibson	C Wharton	J Harrison
Under 15 Years	B Harrison	A Story	A Marston	M Wharton
Open Girls	A Marston	G Coulthard		
Under 18 Years	T Gibson	B Harrison	A Story	A Marston
Best Performance	Abi Marston			

December 18th 2014

WRESTLING 'NOT SO MUCH FIGHTS AS LONG IMMOBILE STRAININGS THAT END IN UNBALANCE'.....

NEWS UPDATE

TBA

When tidying the wrestling material on my bookshelves, I came upon a seemingly alien species: a slim volume of poems by Philip Larkin entitled "High Windows". Larkin had been a major poet after the Second World War, and I remember teaching his "Whitsun Weddings" collection to A level students.

Wrestling in literature is a rarity, but I remember at school the twitch I had when I read in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales that the mighty Miller **"At wrestling he would have away the ram"** and then years later watched a **Breton carrying a big lamb around the ring on his shoulders as the winning wrestler.**

Shakespeare's "As You Like It" has always been a favourite play, partly because of its rural and romantic themes, but also I had to support the young hero, Orlando, as he won Rosalind's heart by felling Charles, the Duke's wrestler.

Shakespeare also knew about hiping, for in two plays characters refer to having their adversaries **"on the hip"**.

Sir Walter Scott and the Ettrick Shepherd, James Hogg both knew about Cumberland Wrestling and included it in their work. Hogg was a keen supporter of rural pursuits and organised the annual St Ronan's Games where wrestling featured. In his "Love Adventures of George Cochrane" published in 1820, the heroine's father organised a nightly wrestling match to decide who would court his daughter. The book was considered so racy by the clergymen who seemed to do so much of the editing in those days, that it is not included in Hogg's complete works.

Philip Larkin had also direct contact with our wrestling, for one of the major poems in his slim volume is "Show Saturday" written after a day spent at Bellingham Show in 1973. The poem has a wealth of humorous and affectionate detail of the day: the sheep show (Cheviot and Blackface), industrial tent, chainsaw competition; **"a beer-marquee that half-screens a canvas Gents... folk sit around on bales Like great straw dice."**

And then **"The wrestling starts, late; a wide ring of people, then cars, Then trees". The wrestlers:**

....."hug each other; rock over the grass,

Stiff-legged, in a two man scrum. One falls: they shake hands.

Two more start, one grey haired: he wins, though. They're not so much fights

As long immobile strainings that end in unbalance

With one on his back, unharmed."

The main theme of Larkin's poem which emerges in the last lines is that the showfield may be dismantled, but

"Let it stay there like strength....

..... something they share

That breaks out ancestrally each year into

Regenerate union. Let it always be there."

.....And so say all of us. Happy Christmas.

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Carlisle Wrestling Club December Senior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
13 Stone	A. Carlile	T. Gibson		
All Weights	J Ewart (<i>click for image</i>)	A Carlile	T Gibson	

December 25th 2014

CHANGES OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS

On the shortest day of 2014 I began to look back at the past year, but overshot, and started thinking about the changes in Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling over the last fifty years. In organising my brain and mulling over potential material, I decided to look at images of then and now, and found, waiting for me as if it was meant to be, two photographs taken fifty years apart, in exactly the same spot.



The wrestlers line up for the costume competition, and the differences are immediately apparent: not just the black and white versus colour photographs, or the fashions, or the severity of Tom Harrington's haircut. The real difference is in the personnel: in 2014 the biggest number of wrestlers is obviously younger, and several are female.



Although our wrestling was in the doldrums in 1964, with only Kendal Academy functioning, there were still far more men in the line-up as a consequence of the popularity of the wrestling in the fifties. Over fifty wrestlers were entered in the Grasmere programme for each of the three heaviest weights. Now there are five academies in action and the emphasis is firmly on youth.

In 1964 no females competed in the sport; this year at Grasmere there were four female categories, and the mixed under 12s was won by Gemma Coulthard.

In 1964 every bout, except for the finals, was decided by single falls. "Sudden death" made some bouts more intense, always on a knife-edge, and it gave the lesser wrestlers the chance of a surprise fall, but it also led to ultra-defensive wrestling and virtual stalemate. This year the only places which considered using single fall wrestling were Rothbury Mart and the Westmorland Show where time was at a premium.

In 1964 the referee had little control of the wrestlers taking hold. Each man had to be on his guard and look after his own interests, and the result was that many wrestlers sought an unfair advantage. Fighting for a fair hold was sometimes harder and longer than the actual bout which ensued. An honourable exception was Peter Hunter, my boy-hood hero, who always took a slack hold and enquired, "Are ye all right, lad?" before bamboozling you with science.



<.....**1964 Programme and wrestling events at Grasmere Sports**><.....**2014 Programme...**>

Jim Bland's suggested amendment to the rules about taking hold eliminated at a stroke the prolonged struggles which wasted time and alienated the crowd. Similarly, the unseemly congregation of the referee and judges in the centre of the ring to discuss a close fall has been stopped. Now, the officials have to give their decisions immediately, and each bout is decided by a majority. By this system no individual wields undue influence on the declared result

No Scots, Bretons, or Icelanders were in the lists. Unlike this year when an Icelander felled a Scot in the All Weights final at Grasmere. In February 2015 a coach-load of wrestlers and spectators will set out from Rothbury, pick up others down the M6, and travel to Quimper in Brittany for their backhold championships. Since 1985 the CWWA has been affiliated to the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling so that teams of wrestlers from all parts of Northern England have united over the years to compete in European Championships.

Other positive changes are the Annual Presentation Dinner, the re-jigged Academy Shield, the Victor Ludorum trophies, our fine web-site, coaching and first-aid qualifications.

Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling remains the same as it was fifty years ago (or two hundred), but it is also significantly and beneficially different.

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