

**January 5<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## SEARCHES IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Wednesday, 11th January 7.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club training at Currock House**

**Wednesday, 18th January Junior Points Night at Currock House**

For years I have fielded enquiries about former wrestlers and wrestling history. In the past they mainly came through the Cumberland News. Now they come from the CWWA website.

*"Hi how many Keswick Regatta Wrestling Belts are known to exist please from early 19th century thank you s brown"*

*"There is a family story that he was World Champion of Cumberland & Westmorland Wrestling some time in the 1920s -1940s"*

To have any hope of success, I need a name, a place and an indication of age. Usually my routine response is to head for the index of Roy Lomas's book on 150 years of Grasmere sports, and if there is no mention there, then I simply tell the enquirer that they should look through the archives of local newspapers for the period when their forebear was likely to be wrestling. This is not such a huge task as it seems, for you focus on the years when the subject is in his twenties. The area of search is further cut if you only look at the months of May to September, and only the sports section.

The newspapers have closely followed C & W Wrestling for over two hundred years, so this is a good methodology, and it gives the enquirer ownership of their own research. Sometimes I become more involved, as when a lady from Kent had details of James Scott one of the famous wrestlers of 140 years ago. That led to a visit up North to see the wrestling at Penrith show, and the donation of silver medals and belt buckles to the CWWA.

More recently a granddaughter of JS Robinson made contact and I found myself following my own curiosity to help her queries, for three generations of the Robinson family made their impact on our sport.

My first port of call was to telephone some of the older wrestlers who could remember when Joe Robinson, from South Africa, won the All Weights Championship in 1951. Apparently it was a tale of rivalry and controversy, mainly stoked up by Joe's father JS Robinson. Peter Hunter went one better than hearsay, and lent me a book, "Lancashire (folk-style) Wrestling" by Gary Pollard which, incongruously, had a detailed account of three generations of Robinsons.

I knew also that Bob Horsley, who wrote this column for 29 years after the War, had a file on the family, so I visited the new County Archives in Old Harraby, where the Horsley Papers are lodged. The visit was a revelation, in two ways.

Firstly, the archive facilities are brilliant: no more cramped tables and dust as was the case when they were in Carlisle Castle, and no more pre-ordering of files kept miles away in temporary stores. Within minutes of renewing my reader's ticket I was sitting at a spacious well-lit table with the Robinson Family file in front of me.

The second revelation or reminder was how interested and organised Bob Horsley was, and that was clearly illustrated by the file in front of me.

Jack Robinson won the Barony wrestling in 1883 and at the age of 53 won the CWWA All Weights World Championship in 1913. His son, Joseph Spedding Robinson, also known as "Jack" was 11st World Champion in 1929 and 1930 before going off to South Africa to make his living from wrestling and Judo. He was a larger than life character, given to self-promotion, but he also had the drive to set up a Judo association in South Africa. His sons and daughters were all Judo champions, and Joe especially with his amazing physique was in several films.

All this plethora of detail about four generations of the Robinson family, several letters from J S Robinson to Bob Horsley, and lots of photographs and cuttings, and many shorthand notes which are gobbledygook to me are there in the archives - an enquiry well answered.

**Wrestlers and coaches need to make up their minds speedily if they wish to accept the Bretons' invitation to compete in their backhold championships in February. They need to know details this week.**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## YOUNGSTERS WRESTLING TODAY ARE THE 'WRESTLING HERITAGE OF TOMORROW'

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Wednesday, 18th January Junior Points Night at Currock House.**

The Olympics seem some distance away from Cumbria focused as they are in the diametrically opposite corner of the country, but apart from the torch-bearing ceremonies, there are also a few extra schemes afoot linked to the idea of sporting heritage.

Carlisle Archive Centre has plans afoot to mount a sport related exhibition in their new, state-of-the-art building, which was officially opened this week. They hope to use elements of the George Steadman collection of trophies which was placed with them by the Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association last year. They also have use of a collection of sporting photographs deposited by the Cumberland News.

Grasmere Sports is involved in a Heritage Lottery bid by a charity called The Federation of Stadium Communities, which is seeking to preserve memories of the Sports. In their pre-application document they point out that **"There are no oral histories of those who have taken part or been connected with the games over generations but there are collections of photographs and memorabilia which could be made more accessible". The methodology proposed is to involve schoolchildren at Grasmere**

**School in interviewing old people like me about their memories of the sports.** Kendal Archives Centre is also involved with the proposal.

A more certain and oddball project is proposed by Harry Pearson, a Guardian journalist, who wrote the book: **"North Country Fair - a travelogue embracing a summer of shows and fairs in the northern counties of England."** His idea is to use a traditional fairground boxing booth to house a travelling exhibition and demonstration center to go round agricultural shows in 2012. He reports: **"The boxing booth is now fully funded, designed and being made. In the next few months we will be booking up pitches at various shows across the region and hope very much that the Cumberland and Westmoreland Wrestlers would like to be involved in the project, which would be an excellent way of highlighting the sport and explaining its intricacies and craft to an audience"**. Details have yet to be firmed up, but it sounds an interesting scheme.



Whilst it is good to pay attention to our heritage with schemes like these, the best way is to keep wrestling and that was what was happening at Currock House this week when Carlisle Wrestling Club held its second Junior points Night. Star of the evening was Kieron Miller, who won the 8½ stones and brought off some of the best falls of the night. Although anyone can come along to watch and participate, the reality is that the spectators are all also retired wrestlers, and parents/chauffeurs. They can do polite applause as well as any group, but they also provide a clapometer of spontaneous approval which is the biggest reward for a wrestler who has brought off a particularly clever or determined throw. Kieron Miller is light for his age and has to rely on guile and speed for his success.

Mark Wharton is progressing well and won two categories. Megan Gibson put younger brother Thomas in his place in the final of the Under 15s. David Miller hiped and twisted with skill. The Wales brothers, Tom, Joe and Harry, were competitive throughout. And finally, after a long wait, James Hall won the Under 18s with a hipe and a buttock.

## Results

### Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	M Wharton	J Wales	A Marston	H Wales
7 Stone	T Wales	W Wilson	J Gibson	A Marston
8½ Stone	K Miller	T Gibson	A Marston	T Wilson
10 Stone	D Miller	K Miller	M Gibson	T Wales
Girls 7½ Stone	A Marston			
Girls Open	M Gibson	A Marston		
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	J Gibson	J Wales	H Alecock
Under 15 Years	M Gibson	T Gibson	A Marston	W Wilson
Under 18 Years	J Hall	J Brown	D Miller	K Miller

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2012**

### RICHARD FOX'S NEW YEAR NOT SO 'HAPPY' JUST YET !

Richard Fox of Hethersgill had a great year of wrestling last year, for he won three Cumberland and Westmorland Championships, at 13st, 14st and 15st. But, this year has begun badly, for a piece of metal lodged in an eye whilst dismantling a building over a week ago, and despite operations in Newcastle, it remains there.



Wrestlers were shocked to hear the news at the Carlisle Wrestling Club January Points Night, having turned up expecting to do battle with him on the mats, for he was leading the All Weights points tally. However, the wrestling show must go on and some keen bouts ensued. The night was one of quality, not quantity, with the Miller brothers, David and Kieron wrestling their hearts out against heavier opposition, always doing the right move but unable to make it stick because their opposition was the likes of Andrew Carlile and John Harrington.

One young lad who had a successful night was Jack Ewart of Westward, who has been a regular at the Club for many years and now, at a tall 14 stones, he is a force to be reckoned with. In the All Weights round-robin, he went through the whole entry without losing a fall, with hipes and big-striding back-heels.

John Harrington, having just failed to weigh in for lightweights, showed his class in winning the middleweights. David Miller proved a resilient opponent who landed on his feet after a Harrington swing, but generally Harrington hiped and twisted safely.

Andrew Carlile, too, wrestled well throughout, and ended the night on a high when he neatly countered a Harrington back-heel by speed of reaction. As an old Northumbrian wrestler said about John Richardson, many years ago: **"The little devil's nivor their when he's wantit."**

More of our wrestlers than last year have decided to travel to Brittany to take part in their back-hold championships on February 25th. The Kendal Academy wrestlers are going back for more after their successful foray last year, and there will be wrestlers and supporters from Carlisle, Rothbury and Waberthwaite, twelve in all. One reason for the long continuation of this international connection is that we are made so welcome. As soon as I sent off the list to Guipavas, one of the organisers, Marie-Thé Priol, replied immediately: **"We are so pleased to see you again,"** and offered to meet us off the Ferry.

## Results

### Wrestling Club Senior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A Carlile	D Miller	K Miller	N/A
13 Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	D Miller	K Miller
All Weights	J Ewart	A Carlile	J Harrington	R Wharton

## January 26<sup>th</sup> 2012

### CHARLES DICKENS AND WRESTLING

Charles Dickens has his two hundredth birthday on February 7th. Though we cannot claim him as an avid follower of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, he did at least give a detailed account of a wrestling competition in his magazine, "Household Words" in 1858. "Feats at the Ferry" gives an appraisal of wrestling both in London and in the North, before focusing on the final bout at the Ferry Ring, Windermere, between Thomas Longmire and "Bonny" Robson". (No relation)

Whenever you read the old wrestling reports, you cannot help make comparison between then and now. To what extent is our wrestling unchanged over the last two hundred years. The Wrestling Association proposes to hold a meeting/course/gathering in March to keep wrestling abreast of the times. Wrestling may seem a sport from time immemorial, but we have to move with the times.

Kendal Academy would have been barred from their training mats at the South Lakeland Leisure Centre if their coaches had no qualifications, so the Wrestling association put in place a Coaching qualification scheme, which involved Child Protection issues as well as the minutiae of our wrestling style. Now we have Criminal Record Bureau checks, Health and Safety matters, and insurance.

What else differs from two hundred years ago? The CWWA website breaks new ground using the internet instant access technology, but also the Cumberland News continues the weekly reporting of wrestling initiated over two centuries ago with The Carlisle Journal, The Carlisle Patriot, and The Cumberland Pacquet (1774 onwards). The Cumbrian Library system stocks over thirty local newspapers on microfilm, the oldest dating back to 1811.

Digital cameras capture the action now, but in the 1870s wrestlers, judges and the crowd were captured in photographs. Detailed line drawings of wrestling were a constant theme of the illustrated newspapers of the time. The adverts for the wrestling at Carlisle Races in 1815 had a woodcut of wrestlers in action.

Even film of wrestling is older than most people realise, for Pathe News has action sequences of the pole-vaulting and wrestling at Grasmere Sports dating from 1919.

Microphone systems have transformed the way wrestling is presented to the crowd, but even in my wrestling days, I was called into action by the Bellman, a survival of the time when a sort of Town Crier figure kept the crowd informed.



The traditional wrestling strip is a continuous link to the past. The Victorians favoured more stripy centrepieces, but our present crop of wrestling strips would not have been out of place in the 1860s. Before that you wrestled in your sark and knee britches. Wrestling fits into the social norms of the time, but at the centre is what happens between both wrestlers "tekkin hod" and hitting the ground. William Litt in 1823 uses words such as "chips, hipe, buttock and cross-buttock" in describing the action, terms still in constant use for our wrestling. "Grandystepping", "hankering the heel" and "henching" seem to have been lost along the way, though the action they describe will still occur in modern bouts.

The wholesome and astonishing fact is that we have a vigorous and active style of wrestling in this region which has thrilled the crowds for more than two hundred years with all its basics unchanged.

## February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

### COACHES AND REFEREES

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Wednesday 8th February - Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night, Currock House Gym**

**Wednesday 15th February - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior points Night**

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Arsène Wenger, Alex Ferguson and Carlisle United are always, and without exception, let down by every referee in every football match. The fact that the referee patrols a hectare of prime grassland, that the action take place at unfeasibly high speed, and the ref is limited to a single set of eyes usually pointing in the same direction, could be mitigating circumstances.

Of course, in Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling, with the ring only 14 metres in diameter, and the three sets of gimlet eyes of the referee and judges focused on the action, no mistakes could possibly be made. Could they?



In London in 1878 a judge needed two sticks, a beard, top hat, large coat, a sandglass to time the tekkin hod



, and two flags to signal the winner, for each wrestler wore different coloured arm-bands.

In my youth, and for much of my wrestling career, the officials used to chat cosily with their neighbours round the ring, and confer with the other judges in the middle of the ring, to argue the merits of the bout. The referee was a local worthy trotted out each year for the local show even though he knew nothing about the wrestling rules and how they had changed since he last wrestled forty years previously. Or so it sometimes seemed.



Thankfully, all that has changed. The referees, who are in charge of the bout, are on a centrally approved list. They monitor the safety of the ring, start the bout fairly, make sure that the two judges are focused on the job, and signal the result of the bout democratically arrived at by a majority decision. At least two officials have to agree before a decision is made. Or at least that is the theory, but it needs reaffirming each year with a referees' meeting for there is still controversy that needs addressing.

The referees' meeting this year will take place after the Spring Governing Board meeting so that the latest interpretations of the rules are included.

**The CWWA is seeking the next generation of coaches, and is seeking anyone interested in taking the first step to coaching qualifications with the Basic Certificate. Anyone interested should contact me on 016974 73559.**

**February 9<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## WRESTLING FAMILIES MAINTAINING THE TRADITION

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Wednesday 15th February - Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior points Night**

Families play a large part in Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, and always have. For example, the Brocklebanks in North Lancashire, the Harringtons in North Cumbria, the Davidsons in Northumberland have always had active wrestlers for fifty years, and there are many more examples. Family connections ease the youngsters into the wrestling ring to do single combat in front of a crowd because they think that it is normal: after all, dad did it.

At Carlisle Wrestling Club that trend was particularly obvious when Penrith auctioneer, John Wharton, brought his family along to join his brother Robert's family on the mats for the club's February Junior Points Night fifty years after their father and uncle, identical twins, dominated the junior wrestling.

Of course, the sport is not reserved just for these old-established dynasties, and two other families figured prominently in the Points Night. The culmination of this was the final of the 10 stones when brother and sister, Thomas and Megan Gibson contested the final. Megan struck to take the first fall, then there were two dog-falls, before Thomas found the right strategy and won the next two falls. This and success in two other categories caught the attention of the judges, and he was awarded the trophy for the night's best performance, with Mark Wharton and Abi Marsden also commended.



The Wales family, Thomas, Harry and Joe, also made their mark. For a year or two the boys have taken an interest in wrestling, competing at the likes of Dalston Show, but this year they have made the big step of turning up regularly for coaching from the Carlisle coaches, Tom Harrington. Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile. The benefits are plain to be seen in all their bouts, and Thomas won the 7 stones.

The Great Boxing Booth Revival is gathering pace, and its organisers are trying to involve Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling. The Booth is a boxing ring in a tent used to stage and showcase sport in this Olympic year, and will be present at nine of our affiliated events this summer, ranging from Egremont Crab Fair in the West, Powburn in the far North, Stanhope in Weardale and the Shows at Penrith and Skelton in North Cumbria.

The problem lies in finding wrestlers willing to demonstrate their sport and with the time to do it. The organisers want a tight schedule, but wrestlers will be competing, and unable to commit to particular times. Certainly, the booth would be a good way of bringing our sport to the public, and our coaches may wish to be involved. Discussions are ongoing.

### Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	A Marston	M. Wharton	J. Wales	C. Wharton
7 Stone	T. Wales	M. Wharton	J. Gibson	A. Marston
8½ Stone	T. Gibson	M. Wharton	T. Wales	H. Wales
10 Stone	T. Gibson	M. Gibson	M. Wharton	T. Wales
Girls 7½ Stone	H. Wharton	A. Marston	J. Wharton	Z. Marston
Girls Open	M. Gibson	A. Marston	H. Wharton	J. Gibson
Under 12 Years	M. Wharton	J. Wales	H. Wharton	J. Gibson
Under 15 Years	T. Gibson	T. Wales	M. Gibson	M. Wharton
Under 18 Years	J. Hall	J. Brown	M. Gibson	T. Gibson

**February 20<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## WRESTLING FAMILIES - THE SEQUEL

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday 25th February - Brittany Backhold Championships, Guipavas near Brest**

Last week I wrote about the important influence of mainly rural, wrestling families as a foundation of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling. Usually that means that youngsters follow family traditions and competing in the ring. This week we saw a strange twist where the father followed the children onto the wrestling mats.



John Wharton brought along his children, Hannah, Jessica and Jonathan, to Carlisle Wrestling Club for last week's Junior Points Night. This week he returned for a normal training night, but it was followed by the club's Senior Points Night. First of all he was persuaded to act as referee for the Lightweights and the Middleweights, then slightly more reluctantly to compete in the All Weights section. In the next half hour he gave a master-class in wrestling: he back-heeled; outside-stroked; threw out a hank, high and handsome; swinging-hiped; and beat his biggest opponent, James Hall, by getting on the run and bustling him down. No doubt, the morning after, at his job as an auctioneer at Penrith Mart, he will find the gavel peculiarly heavy and wonder why so many muscles are aching.

Earlier, in the Lightweights and Middleweights we saw a duel between Jack Brown and Andrew Carlile with intense sustained action. Jack Brown, with his building strength, was able to force Carlile to turn in. Firstly, Carlile's head came out and it looked certain that he would lose, but in the stramash that followed they were adjudged to break hold simultaneously, so the action started afresh. Again, Brown's hold forced Carlile to buttock and he nearly succeeded several times before Brown was able to rush him forward and down to the mat. The other successful wrestler of the evening was John Harrington, who won the Middleweights without losing a fall and then took some satisfyingly smooth and spectacular falls in the All Weights. He felled Jack Brown with a swirling inside-click, and in the last bout of the evening, he got under the tall body of Jack Ewart and brought him over with an outside-hipe and a finishing flick.

Returning to the family theme, I was delighted to watch three of my grandchildren, wrestling on the Carlisle mats, more than a century after their great-grandfather was winning local boys events in Northumberland.

### Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	J. Brown	A. Carlile	T. Gibson	N/A
13 Stone	J. Harrington	A. Carlile	J. Brown	T. Gibson
All Weights	J. Wharton	J. Hall	J. Harrington	J. Ewart

## February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012

### SUMO WRESTLING FROM THE FAR EAST ..... OF YORKSHIRE ..... ?

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Wednesday 14th March - Final Junior Points Night Carlisle Wrestling Club**

**Wednesday 21st March - Final Senior Points Night, Carlisle Wrestling Club**

Sumo wrestling from Japan may seem to have little connection with our own Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling, though some of our old heavyweights would have needed little extra rice to reach fighting trim.

One of Grasmere Sports less tasteful ventures along the paths of "appealing to a wider audience" saw them hire giant inflatable Sumo wrestlers to do battle while in a nearby ring centuries of home-grown wrestling tradition and skill were on display.

An earlier and more tasteful connection came decades ago when The Atomic Energy people at Sellafield, imported a delegation of Japanese visitors when they first made commercial contact with Japan. Included in this "Cultural Exchange" were some Sumo wrestlers, and an encounter with our wrestlers was set up. There was to be no actual wrestling between the two groups, and what transpired was that Tom Harrington and Alan Jones undertook to put on a wrestling demonstration for the visitors.

The venue was Tullie House on borrowed Judo mats, in front of dignitaries and visitors. Tom and Alan put on such a good, action packed demonstration, that one of the Sumo wrestlers responded by showing us some of his training techniques, apparently a rare and generous privilege. I remember the fluidity and grace of this twenty stone man as he exercised in slow motion, lifting one foot shoulder high and then the other, and ending in a sideways splits. He had no defined muscle, but his body glowed with smooth power.

This summer we may see Sumo wrestlers in action in our rings. An enquiry came to me recently from the far East....of Yorkshire, Doncaster to be precise:

**'Hello, I have a team of Sumo Wrestlers in Doncaster, South Yorkshire and we would like to come and learn / participate in**

**wrestling. Any help on how we can do this would be great.'**

To this I replied:

**'Why not pick a busy week-end and come with tents to the area and attend two or three events? Entry is "Open to the world" so no fees are involved. The wrestling style is very basic, and anyone with skills in other wrestling styles or martial arts should be able to make a reasonable attempt at it. I notice that in Sumo wrestling it is possible to throw a man down within the ring and win the bout without pushing him out of the wrestling area. That wrestling within the ring is very similar to our style.**

**'If you make contact at an event, you would be made very welcome and given coaching advice, and further details of the sport.'**

Watch this space.

Some of our own wrestlers are going abroad with their sport this week. A party of fifteen is due to attend the **"Championnat de Bretagne de BACK-HOLD"** to be hosted by the Breton Club at Guipavas near Brest.

## March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

### TROPHIES AND MEDALS AT THE BRETON BACKHOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Wednesday 14th March - Final Junior Points Night Carlisle Wrestling Club**

**Wednesday 21st March - Final Senior Points Night, Carlisle Wrestling Club**

Eleven wrestlers, a long way from home, had a marvellous haul of trophies. The Breton Backhold Championships were held in Guipavas, a town on the outskirts of Brest, and wrestlers from Northumberland, Carlisle, Waberthwaite and mainly Kendal won eight championship trophies and several medals.

Amazingly each wrestler was in a different category by differences of age or weight, so that for example Haydon King and James Hayhurst, who would have normally been lumped together in our events, were free to wrestle others. In the whole championships none of our wrestlers wrestled against a compatriot.

There were plenty of others to confront, for there were 130 competitors, including wrestlers from Poland and Sardinia. Wrestling best-of-five falls, none of our wrestlers had an easy ride, for the Bretons are now well versed in our backhold style, and use it regularly in their training sessions.

To cap it all two Kendal wrestlers won trophies for the best performances in all the wrestling. Connie Hodgson not only won the Breton Female Championship, and the "all categories" session when she beat all-comers, but she also collected the trophy for the best female wrestler. Although she was pressed hard she lost only one fall in the semi-final of the open competition.

Sam Wilson of Kendal hardly ever has a level chance while wrestling in England because he is slight of build, but those of us who follow wrestling closely know that he is a talented wrestler waiting his time. Even at Guipavas he seemed out weighted by most of his opponents, but not drastically so, and he was able to summon all his skills to redress the balance. With panache, he inside-clicked and hanked his way to victory, and was awarded the trophy for the best wrestler of all the juniors.

James Hayhurst won his group, but his best performance came the previous night when at a training night laid on by the Guipavas Club, he became involved in a "winner-stays-on session, where he monopolised the mat against all-comers till exhaustion felled him.

Haydon King showed that he is developing strongly as a complete wrestler, and won his falls with conviction. William Atkinson, Ben Brocklebank and Thomas Gibson also continued to show last year's good form to win their groups.

The other winner was also one of the trainers and a chauffeur for the trip. Darren Whitfield was doubtful whether he was fit enough to take part, and his stiffness was not helped by the warming-up session the previous night, but he put all that behind him on the day and is Breton Backhold Champion 2012 for heavyweights.



Only one wrestler came away without a trophy. Craig Naylor lost his first bouts and was outside the medals, but he suddenly came to life in the Open competition at the end and took part in one of the best bouts of the day when he stood two falls each and after two dog-falls, lost the decider to Tudy le Meur, one of the best Breton wrestlers to grace our rings in Cumbria.

The trip was a triumph for our wrestlers, but it was also great experience for them, and we cannot thank enough our generous hosts the Guipavas Club and particularly Jean-Ives l'Her and Marie-Thé Priol. As the Gouren web-site comments, the trip was part of "*une habitude d'accueil et d'échanges sportifs et culturels.*" - a tradition of hospitality, and sporting and cultural exchanges.

## March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

### THE YEAR AHEAD

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Wednesday 14th March - Final Junior Points Night Carlisle Wrestling Club.**

**Wednesday 21st March - Final Senior Points Night, Carlisle Wrestling Club.**

**Saturday 24th March - Waberthwaite Open Night.**

March is a month for tidying up the indoor wrestling season and looking ahead to competition for six months in sixty grass rings throughout the Northern Counties and the Borders of Scotland. But for a few weeks the focus is very much on the Academies and their wrestling mats.

**Carlisle Wrestling Club** concludes its Points Night competitions in the next two weeks, and they are particularly strong at the younger and smaller end of the spectrum. Attendances have been boosted in recent weeks by the attendance of Young Farmers who are preparing for the North Cumbria Field Day. Although there are many trained wrestlers in the YFC, there is also a significant number of "volunteers" who have never seen a wrestling ring before or whose experience is entirely limited to previous Field Days. In the interests of safety the organisers insist that all wrestlers have attended a wrestling training session at one of our academies.



This week wrestlers from Egremont, Lamplugh, and Longtown were on the mats at Carlisle under the watchful eyes of Alan Jones and Andrew Carlile, while Tom Harrington kept the regular crowd of youngsters fully active on another corner of the mats.

Two academies are planning Open Nights to finish indoors with a flourish. **Waberthwaite** has a long established tradition of pies and peas and good wrestling, and once more on Saturday, 24th March this wholesome fare is on offer. As usual there is a plethora of categories by age, weight and sex, not dissimilar to the range of opportunities on offer in Brittany in February.

A week later, **Kendal** is abandoning its modern Sports Centre base and putting on a similar Open Night in Grayrigg Village Hall with food, drink, chat, and wrestling action.

**Milnthorpe Academy** is not holding a Finals Night this year, but coach David Parsons is confident that "our lads will shine" at the other academy events. Always a small club, Milnthorpe has had more wrestlers this year, and help on the coaching side from Joe Threlfall, who travels up from Preston with three of his lads.

All the Cumbrian academies can be expected to join in these events, but away on the other side of the wrestling world, **Rothbury Academy** ploughs its lone furrow. Darren Whitfield and Jason Davidson have plenty of young wrestlers at the beginning of each training session, but have lost a lot of their older wrestlers to the distractions of education and world travel. They have in the past travelled to compete on the Waberthwaite mats, but according to my satnav they are 120 miles and three hours away.

But isn't it good that the our traditional wrestling is taught throughout our region.

**March 16<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## FINAL JUNIOR POINTS RESULTS FOR INDOOR SEASON AT CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Wednesday 21st March - Final Senior Points Night, Carlisle Wrestling Club.**

**Saturday 24th March - Waberthwaite Open Night in the village hall -**

**Ages: Under 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 years. Weights: 6st, 7st, 9st, 10½st, 12st, 13st, All Weights and Ladies.**

**Saturday 31st March - Kendal Open Night.**

Carlisle Wrestling Club's mats were pounded by a mass of youngsters who turned out for the last Points Night competitions of the indoor season, and best of all, by a unanimous decision of the judges, was Abigail Marston.



Abi is one of those young wrestlers who has a raw deal in the summer months, because she rarely competes on a level playing field/wrestling ring. She is either too slight in weight, or too young in age, to prosper. But those who know her from the indoor training sessions of winter, know that she is a skilled and knowledgeable wrestler beyond her years. Alan Jones, the Carlisle coach, especially notices that she readily takes on board and uses the comments and refinements which are all part of good coaching.

She and Mark Wharton began the night with equal points in the 6 stones, and they inevitably met in the final where she showed how she could both defend and attack. The first fall came from a counter when she twisted Wharton as he came to back-heel. The second fall was all attack, when Marston went for a classic inside-click which left Wharton on his back.

Mark Wharton had his own moment of triumph in the Under 12 Years, for over the previous three instalments from November to February, he only dropped one point. This week he faced the tenacious Joe Wales, and buttocked him.

Thomas Wales, won his own weight at 7stones and then in the 8½ stones benefited from the increased weight of Thomas Gibson and Kieron Miller, who were the front runners in the points tally. Even though he was weighed out, Thomas Gibson still won the 8½st points trophy because he had already won three times before he had too many breakfasts. In any case he won the Under 15 Years where his weight was an advantage to add to his proven skills.

One of the main delights of the evening came in the final of the 10 stones when two brothers, David and Kieron Miller reached the final. Although they compete on the grass in summer, and show many glimpses of their potential, those of us who watch them week by week, know that their time will come when they compete on equal terms in weight competitions for men. Kieron is the younger and lighter of the brothers, and usually David copes with him from long experience, but occasionally, Kieron's timing and technical ability catches out his older brother. That was the case in the first bout of the final, when Kieron got David on the run and never let him recover, despite desperate efforts. David Miller was on full alert in the next bout and he too won by a close twist and went on to win the third.

One of Carlisle's most regular wrestlers, Jack Brown, who travels from Haydon Bridge to take part, had his reward with a good win in the Under 18 Years.

### Carlisle Wrestling Club Junior Points Night

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stone	A Marston	M Wharton	J Wales	H Wales
7 Stone	T Wales	A Marston	M Wharton	W Wilson
8½ Stone	T Wales	M Wharton	H Alecock	W Wilson
10 Stone	D Miller	K Miller	M Gibson	T Gibson
Girls 7½ Stone	A Marston	H Wharton	G Coulthard	J Wharton
Girls Open	M Gibson	J Wharton	A Marston	H Wharton

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	J Wales	G Coulthard	J Wharton
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	T Wales	M Gibson	A Marston
Under 18 Years	J Brown	K Miller	T Gibson	A Marston

#### Points Night Winners for 2011-2012

6 Stone	7 Stone	8½ Stone	10 Stone	Girls 7½ Stone	Girls Open	Under 12 Years	Under 15 Years	Under 18 Years
Abi Marston	Thomas Wales	Thomas Gibson	David Miller	Abi Marston	Megan Gibson	Mark Wharton	Thomas Gibson	Jack Brown

## March 21<sup>st</sup> 2012

### FINAL SENIOR POINTS RESULTS FOR THE INDOOR SEASON AT CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Saturday 24th March - Waberthwaite Open Night in the village hall -**

**Ages: Under 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 years. Weights: 6st, 7st, 9st, 10½st, 12st, 13st, All Weights and Ladies.**

**Saturday 31st March - Kendal Open Night.**

Bonny Prince Charlie could win battles but lost the war. At Carlisle Wrestling Club, in slightly less romantic circumstances, the same applied in all three wrestling categories of the Senior Points Competition. The campaign started earlier than usual in October and continued monthly till this week.



In the lightweights, Jack Brown had been unbeaten, but fatally, missed one of the sessions, which meant that Andrew Carlile, who had been second to him on each occasion, was level on points. When the two of them met in the round-robin system Brown gained



a good hold, hoisted his man on a hipec and flung him on his back.

That, normally, would have been that, but David Miller was wrestling with skill and passion, and felled Jack Brown when they met, so there had to be a wrestle-off for first place. This time Andrew Carlile attacked off the right hip and threw his man to win the Lightweights Points Trophy for the Winter season. In the middleweights, Andrew Carlile was already ahead by a country mile, which was just as well, for David Miller wrestled brilliantly to win the round-robin unbeaten.

In the All Weights section, two young heavyweights stood out from the crowd. Jack Ewart knew that he had to beat Jimmy Hall to have a chance of winning the Points Trophy. They are both big lads: Ewart tall and lean; Hall significantly heavier. When they met, Ewart lost some hold and turned into his man, surely a fatal move. But against all odds, and using a desperate last minute hank, Ewart brought his man down to the mats by the closest of margins. That meant that the two young heavyweights were exactly level on points after six competitions, and a sudden death wrestle-off ensued.

This time Jimmy Hall got a good hold of his man, gave him no wriggle-room, and twisted him down to the mat to win the coveted Points Trophy which will be presented, along with all the Junior Points Trophies, next Wednesday when the club holds its last winter session. Summer is coming fast.

The precarious position of prestigious open air events in the wettest region of England is well illustrated by the demise of Pooley Bridge Sports and Keswick Sports, two of the big-four events which staged running, wrestling and hound-trailing in the midst of the Lakeland Fells. Grasmere continues strongly but by adapting towards a showcase for the Lakes rather than just a sports meeting. Only Ambleside, the youngster, continues the sporting mix as before with a perimeter track for running and cycling, as well as the fell-races, hounds and wrusslin.

They have had their wet years and precarious financial moments, so it is good to report the launch of the **"Ambleside Sports Association Scholarship Scheme"**. The remit of the scheme is *"helping those who want to participate in competitive sports.... The Association is particularly keen to support, and will give priority to Individuals who are under 21 and Resident in the Lakes Parish Council and Taking part or wanting to take part in Traditional Lakeland Sports."* At the launch of the scheme at an Ambleside hotel, guests were treated to a sparkling demonstration of wrestling skills by a group of young Kendal Academy wrestlers. Anyone interested in applying for support of their wrestling career should go to their web site: [www.amblesidesports.co.uk](http://www.amblesidesports.co.uk)

### Wrestling Club - Senior Points Night

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

11½ Stone	Andrew Carlile
13 Stone	Andrew Carlile
All Weights	Jimmy Hall

## March 29<sup>th</sup> 2012

### EQUALITY OF THE SEXES IN THE WRESTLING RING

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday 31st March** - Kendal Open Night at Grayrigg Village Hall U13 / U15 / U18 / Girls - 10, Open, 5st (mixed), Males - 7, 9, 11, 13, AW Pies and peas and a big raffle.



When the Wrestling Association was formed on 1906 women wore long skirts, with bustles, improbably big hats and whale-boned waists.... not the best athletic costume. The idea that women might compete at wrestling was never considered. My auntie Jean may have wrestled with her brothers at home on the farm at Longlea, but there was no thought of public action.

As a result, no mention of females appeared in the rule-book and when one or two women and girls started competing, there was nothing to stop them. With the success of Barbara Prudham from Carlisle in Junior wrestling and the presence of women wrestlers from Scotland, there was a feeling in some quarters that mixed wrestling was unacceptable, and that lads were too embarrassed to compete in case they lost to a girl. As a result, the wrestling rules were amended to stop mixed bouts, which brought us in line with other contact sports like Rugby and Judo.

Special classes were introduced at many of our events to cater for females in the Summer, with **Grasmere Sports offering four categories** and hundreds of pounds of prize money, and the Academy Shield competition added two female sections. However, on the mats in winter, boys wrestled with girls in training as before.

From this sense of normality and general acceptance of mixed wrestling at the junior stage, the CWWA rules were amended at the recent AGM to allow girls to compete with boys up to the age of eleven at affiliated events. This brings our sport in line with the likes of football where Junior school teams regularly have girls in the side, but that ceases when they move to Secondary school.

This change comes too late for the likes of Connie Hodgson, Megan Gibson and Abi Marston, but should help the girls who are a normal and accepted part of every academy now.

At Waberthwaite Open Night, two young girls battled hard in the lightest weights, but otherwise it was an all male affair with wrestlers from Kendal and Milnthorpe there in numbers. With twelve categories for the wrestlers, all were able to compete on equal terms, and the length of the evening was made manageable by restricting the number of sections for each wrestler.



The village hall was stuffed with young wrestlers, a tribute to organiser, Tom Porter and his coaches Ashley Killip and Craig Naylor. Waberthwaite wrestlers were among the prize-winners throughout, with excellent displays from Ben Fox, Dylan Connor, Adrian



Philips, Andrew Woodend, Dan Hodgson, and Wayne Rothery.

Perhaps the best encounter of the night was between two Kendal wrestlers, James Hayhurst and Matthew Atkinson in the final of the Under 18 Years. It was a story of inside-clicks. Hayhurst struck first with a classic inside-click. For the second fall he tried the same again and Atkinson countered with the text-book twist. The decider had to be something special, and Atkinson provided it with the fall of the night, a swinging inside-click which felled Hayhurst in mid-air.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## KENDAL ACADEMY OPEN NIGHT



Kendal Academy went back to its country roots when wrestlers and fans filled the village hall in Grayrigg for its Open Night. Week by week in the winter the club meets in the spacious modernity of the South Lakes Sports Centre, but for intensely focused wrestling action, nothing beats the crowded atmosphere of the village.

Joseph Robson had to walk at least sixty yards from his house in the village to referee the junior events and then, after a gap, win the All Weights competition. Strong opposition came from Graham Brocklebank on the way to the final where he met the much improved Daryl Hodgson.

Hodgson is one of those lads you think are young boys learning their trips, who are suddenly two feet taller than you remember, and strong and skilled, too.



The evening offered competitions for all ages and weights ranging from a 5 stone mixed group to the heavyweights, and the best wrestler of all throughout the evening was announced by the judge, John Richardson as "Yellow Brock" - Ben Brocklebank in a bright yellow football top. After injury kept him quiet a while back, he showed great form last season and is even better now. In the final of the Under 18 Years he finished Daryl Hodgson off with a short, sharp swinging hipe, and in the 11 stones felled the 12st Champion, James Hayhurst with an ultra fast buttock.

Another greatly improved, and grown, wrestler is George Wilson who won at 9 stones when he felled Thomas Gibson of Carlisle, a long time adversary, who held the upper hand in previous years.

The Open Night brought big contingents of wrestlers from the academies at Milnthorpe and Wabertwaite for a second week in a row, showing the strength in depth of young wrestlers in the south of the county. The work of the academies is a core activity of our wrestling, but it is good to see the peripheral interest created by access through the internet.

Our web-master sent me information about the way the web-site is found and used - 150 to 250 "views per day", with the biggest number on a Friday. Over the past three months the main activity, obviously comes from the UK, but significant numbers from Spain, France, the USA, and Japan search out Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, and there have been "visits" from no fewer than 49 countries.

Those figures do of course include the search engine 'spiders' as well, but most searches are based on variations of our long title "Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling". Visitors come from the Grasmere web-site, YouTube, and the Gouren web site in Brittany. Individual search phrases included "*Where do kendal cumberland wrestling academy have there open night*", "*london illustrated news archives - alwinton show*", "*kendal*", "*cumbrian wrestling tourism*", and most worrying: "*wrestling in the rain girls*"

### Kendal Academy Open Night Winners

Under 13 Years	Under 15 Years	Under 18 Years	5 Stone (Mixed)	Girls 10 Stone	Girls Open	7 Stone	9 Stone	11 Stone	All Weights
G. Wilson	J. Lashley	B. Brocklebank	L. Phillips	L. Hayhurst	C. Hodgson	M. Kirkham	A. Phillips	B. Brocklebank	J. Robson

**April 12<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND WRESTLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES FOR 2012

### NEWS UPDATE

All Weights.....	Langholm Show .....	22nd September
15 Stone .....	Cumberland Show.....	9th June
14 Stone .....	Skelton Show .....	7th July
13 Stone.....	Egremont Crab Fair .....	15th September
12 Stone .....	Eskdale Show .....	29th September
11 Stone .....	Silloth Carnival .....	27th August
10½ Stone.....	Gosforth Show .....	18th August
Under 18 Years .....	Hethersgill Vintage .....	6th May
Under 18 Years / 10 Stone .....	Dalston Show .....	11th August
Under 15 Years .....	Ennerdale Show.....	29th August
Under 15 Years / 8 Stone .....	Killington Sports .....	7th June

The CWWA All Weights Championship, the hardest to win, is allocated to Langholm Show just over the Border into Scotland. The Wrestling Association at present has three affiliated events in Scotland, and strangely enough two are on the same field at Langholm: the horse racing and sports meeting of the Common Riding takes place at the end of July; the Agricultural Show, which hosts the championship, is in the twilight of the Grass Season at the end of September. Sometimes known as Eskdale Show, it usually clashes with the Eskdale Show in the far West of Cumbria, but fortunately this year, their date formulae put them on different weekends, and the 12st men can have their championship day without a clash of venues.

The 11st Championship should be a lively affair this year, for not only do we have a good crop of top wrestlers breaking through into adult wrestling, but it will take place at Silloth Carnival when the Bretons are likely to be here in force, and many of their wrestlers are perfect for that weight.

Wrestlers can now plan when to lose weight for the various championships, but age can not be varied, and that means that David Miller, a likely contender, will have had too many birthdays.

Most wrestling events are promoted by agricultural shows, and that is the case with the championships, too, with seven of the eleven events at shows. Venues range from the huge spread of the Cumberland County Show, filling Carlisle Racecourse, to the hidden sheep show in a lost valley in West Cumbria which is Ennerdale Show. Ennerdale is a bit of a hybrid as it also hosts children's sports, fell running, and houndtrailing.

The other four events range from a huge Vintage Rally at Carlisle airport under the auspices of the Hethersgill Vintage Society; a traditional village sports meeting at Killington, when the whole world attends until well after darkness; Silloth Carnival is a rarity these days both in its entertainment and urban setting; and the wrestling at Egremont Crab Fair is part of a long day's programme of climbing the greasy pole, fell running, hound trailing, gurning, drinking and ferret fancying.

### CALLING ALL REFEREES



The Wrestling Association is holding an important meeting for referees at Carlisle Rugby Club (7.30pm, Friday 20th April). The role of our referees has changed basically in the last few years, and there is a constant need for consistency and good practice. Old Fred from down the pub can no longer have his ten minutes of fame refereeing at the local show. The Association has a list of approved referees, and this year for the first time they will be allocated centrally by the CWWA, so that the position does not become monopolised by the few. To back up its determination to improve refereeing standards, the Board expects attendance at the referees meeting each year, and those missing two will automatically drop from the list until they attend again.

Each referee will be formally assessed each season and informally advised, as necessary. Who on earth is qualified to be an assessor? Well, we will not know until next week, for the referees attending the meeting will choose three wise men to do the job. This is a master-stroke, for the assessors are not flown in from a different authoritarian world, but are those most respected by their peers.

The route into refereeing is through taking charge of Junior wrestling and then moving up to take charge of the Seniors. All referees on the CWWA list, both Junior and Senior, should attend, but the meeting is also open to anyone who is interested in officiating.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2012**

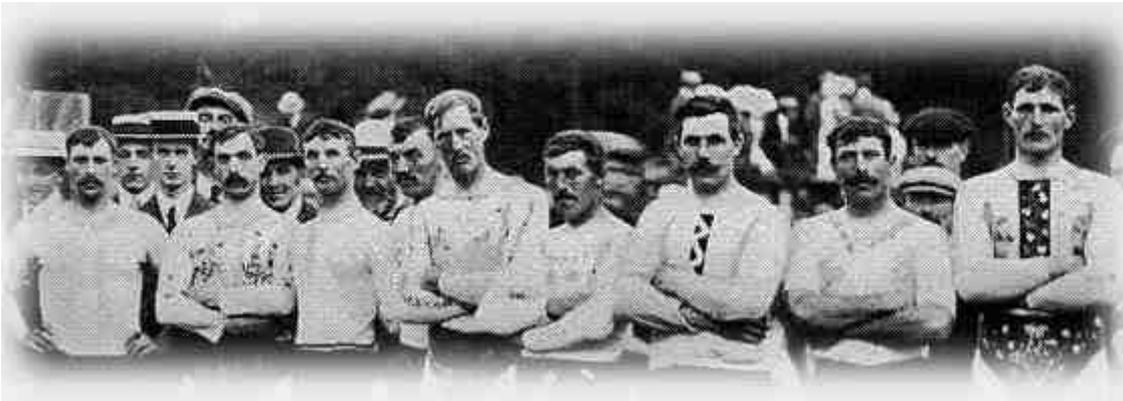
## CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND STYLE WRESTLING - THE INTEGRITY OF MAN TO MAN COMBAT

### NEWS UPDATE

#### TBA

In the old Market Hall in Carlisle, in the seventies, I watched as the masked villain, Kendo Nagasaki, was poked by an old lady with an umbrella as he lay on the canvas of the wrestling ring. The crowd bayed and howled as big men in black suits led the old lady away, back to the dressing rooms, no doubt. A night of tremendous entertainment and passion was calmed down by a final skilful bout between two clean-cut young men, whose overt sportsmanship approached saintliness, and the satisfied punters went to catch the bus.

That night had a compelling narrative, well rehearsed and delivered. What it lacked was any sign of genuine competitive wrestling.



Our local wrestling may have been blighted by barneying over a century ago, but for ever and a day the sport is conspicuous by the integrity of each bout of man-to-man combat. We have the genuine competitive wrestling; what we sometimes lack is the compelling narrative.

At the recent AGM of the Wrestling Association there was a discussion about whether all wrestling should be best-of-three for each bout. The issue had come to a head at the **Westmorland Show** where single falls, otherwise known as "sudden death", were the order of the day and there was some discussion about whether that was appropriate when wrestlers had travelled so far to participate.

In the sixties I remember travelling from my home near Barnard Castle in North Yorkshire to compete at Jedburgh Games, where I lasted about ten seconds in the 12 stones and less in the All Weights. Single falls were and had been universal in our traditional wrestling, but times they were a -changing. When hundreds of wrestlers turned out to compete, then the organisers had no option but to have several rings simultaneously and sudden death until the final. But, when the entry lists were short, the bouts had to be longer.

When Wolsingham Show in Weardale asked me to organise the wrestling in the seventies, I had good prize-money and a big range of categories on offer, but only when I advertised best-of-three wrestling did the event take-off in a sustainable way. Without wrestlers there is no narrative.

In Scotland they struggled with entry numbers and moved to a pool system, a round-robin, where wrestlers compete many times at each venue. This gives plenty of action but a lack of clarity for the spectators. In England wrestlers were battling at length to take hold before the action could start, and long, defensive wrestling was common. Without spectators there is no wrestling.

Our old unchanging sport has actually changed greatly for the better in the past decades in the way it presents itself in the ring: the referee controls "tekkin hod", **the table organisation has fewer gaps in the flow of bouts**, most events have their **own wrestling ring** so are not ousted by racing terriers or horse-jumping, speaker systems keep the crowd informed, and with the simple, well understood knock out system of rounds leading to a final, the crowd has a clear story to follow before the winner gets the cup.

**CALLING ALL REFEREES**



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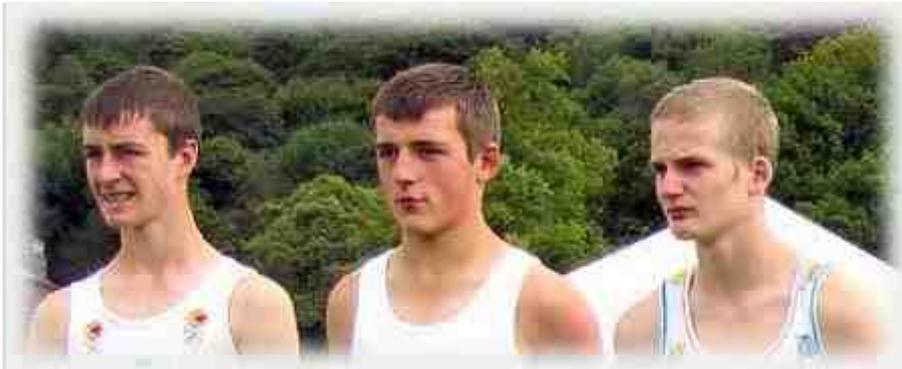
**April 26<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## THE 2012 WRESTLING SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Sunday, 6th May 12.30pm** - Hethersgill Vintage Club at Carlisle Airport - U12 / U15 / U18 Championship / Girls / 12½ stone / AW



Don't worry about the bad weather, the real summer starts next Sunday when the wrestling season opens at Carlisle Airport. Top of the wrestling bill is the Under 18 Years Championship, "open to the world".

A new champion is guaranteed as the holder, Jimmy Hall of Lanwathby, reached his sell-by date in February. He was, and is, an exceptional figure with his weight, strength and natural ability honed by years of training, so his absence opens up the field. All the other likely lads from last year are eligible as far as I know.

The Kendal Academy lads with their shiny new battle-bus will probably lead the charge with Messrs Atkinson, Hayhurst and Brocklebank in the lead. The last time I saw William Atkinson, he was hobbling around with a football injury, so may be a doubt. The last time I saw Ben Brocklebank was at the Kendal Open Night at Grayrigg Village Hall when he took the prize for the best performance in all the wrestling, so he is obviously on form and improving.

Carlisle Wrestling Club has some good wrestlers at the right age, but the wrong weight. David Miller shone on the mats this winter, and Jack Brown last year showed that he could compete successfully amongst the men. The last time I heard of Jack Brown, though, he had come off his horse at Dalston Point-to-Point, in his parallel life, so I hope he is fit to compete.

The other academies are unknown quantities, particularly Waberthwaite, which demonstrated at its Open Night that it has talent galore, but whether that can be transported out of the hall and into the wrestling ring is always an uncertainty. Rothbury Academy lacks anyone of the appropriate age, but they have two good youngsters in Dan Brown and Archie Singer.

The Wrestling Association held its annual referees' meeting last week and a very positive occasion it was. The meeting served to remind referees of the rules and obligations they must know and fulfil. The most animated section of the meeting was when the subject of communication came up. The complaint was that referees were not checking with the judges after each fall, if they thought that the decision was obvious. From now on both judges should give their verdict clearly and audibly after the fall. After that the referee must make sure the commentator is given the result and that the wrestler indicates his success by raising his hand in the air....but not before he is told to.

In a new departure all referees will be assessed during the season, and the three assessors were elected from and by those present at the meeting. Those chosen were Alf Harrington, Tom Harrington and Jimmy Pringle... the three wise men.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

2013 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CELTIC WRESTLING (IFCW)

NEWS UPDATE

DATES:

**Sunday, 6th May 12.30pm** - Hethersgill Vintage Club at [Carlisle Airport](#) - U12 / U15 / U18 Championship / Girls / 12½ stone / AW



The 2013 European Championships of the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling (IFCW) will be held in Reykjavik in April.

The first Icelandic wrestlers to come to Cumbria probably wore funny helmets and arrived by longboat. They littered the West coast with dialect words, place-names, hog-back tombs, and their blood genotype. Wrestling, also, is supposed to be a Viking import. Certainly there is an enduring tradition of wrestling in Iceland with **Glima wrestling** regarded as a national sport. A hundred years ago there were still bouts of Back-Spanning wrestling in Iceland with rules almost identical to our style.

In 1986 they were one of the four founding countries to compete in the new European Championships of the IFCW. They reached their zenith in 1991 when they persuaded the IFCW to include Glima wrestling as one of the wrestling styles used in the championships. The highly technical rules gave them a big advantage in the wrestling and a monopoly of judges, but even then the professionals of the Canary Islands pushed them into second place.

After that, and the return to two styles for the Championships, they took little part in the IFCW competitions. However there was a link well established between the Icelanders and us, for their wrestlers came most years to compete at Grasmere, and there was a youth competition between us for the Icelandair Trophy which took place twice in Iceland and several times in England. On one occasion an Icelandic wrestler travelled all the way to Alwinton Show to compete in the All Weights Championship.

In Iceland there was a big rift between those who wanted to be involved internationally, and those who wanted to use the Atlantic as a defensive moat, but now under the Presidency of Olafur Oddur Sigurdsson the modernists lead the way. In 2010 David Atkinson went as back-hold coach to a training camp in Reykjavik, and now the Icelanders are to host next year's championship.



Our participation in the event has dwindled somewhat in the last ten years. From 1986 to 1993 we were three times champions and three times runners-up. The culmination was in 1993 when we were first out of seven countries. Since then we did well in 1999 when we almost won with a team member missing, but the event has been dominated by the Bretons and the Spanish teams.

There are many problems in raising, training and transporting a team for the event, but the Reykjavik Championships in 2012 would be a wonderful challenge for any of our wrestlers: a chance to shine internationally in our own sport in a remarkable country of icecaps, volcanoes, geysers

**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2012**

HETHERSGILL VINTAGE CLUB MEETING AT CARLISLE AIRPORT

NEWS UPDATE

**DATES:**

**Saturday 12th May 2pm - Sedbergh Gala U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13 / AW**

Wrestlers from Rothbury, Kendal, Carlisle and Dundee came together for the opening event of the Wrestling Association's Grass Season. The main draw was the Under 18 Years Championship, and all the main contenders were there.



The competitive nature of the event was underlined by the number of matches which needed three holds to decide the winner. In fact, the eventual winner, Ryan Dolan, lost a fall against each opponent. In the first round young Archie Singer from Rothbury was a foot shorter than Dolan but still managed to take the middle fall with a reverse twist. In the decider an emphatic back-heel put paid to Singer's aspirations.

In the next round, Dolan got off to a poor start when James Hayhurst wriggled off a hipe and twisted down. In the second fall, Dolan made a better job of the hipe, and gained a spectacular fall. The decider was one of those close falls which comes when a hank is in play as the wrestlers fall. On this occasion Dolan twisted enough to take the fall.

A bye in the semi-final took Dolan to the final where he met William Hayhurst, who was wrestling for the first time since injuring his shoulder over a year ago. Hayhurst gained a good hold and then crushed Dolan's buttock attempt when it came. Dolan then equalised with a back-heel. Dolan's height and power make the back-heel particularly effective, and he again turned to it in the decider, this time finishing it off with a big twist. The Under 18 trophy with so many famous names engraved on it was heading north to Dundee.

On the following day a query was made to the CWWA regarding the age of one of the competitors, and that is at present under investigation.



The other impressive wrestling came in the men's events when Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge came alive and showed the timing and experience he has accumulated over many years even though he is so young. I remember particularly a sweetly time buttock which transformed in a moment a dodgy situation into a win, and he must have enjoyed felling Kendal's Matthew Atkinson in the final with Atkinson's own speciality, the swinging inside-click.

The All Weights brought together in the final two excellent wrestlers who rarely meet. Graham Brocklebank rarely ventures north of Shap Summit, while Frazer Hirsch lives so far north in Dundee and is involved with the Scottish Wrestling Bond events so that his appearances in our area are limited. Their first hold was a fairly routine affair with Hirsch going to buttock, but stopped and thrown up then down by Brocklebank.. The final bout was good to watch and short in duration. Hirsch went for the swinging hipe, the "birl", he would call it. Brocklebank was well launched, but recovered enough to use Hirsch's momentum to fling him up and round and down.

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

### Hethersgill Vintage Club

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H. Bertram	T. Hayhurst	J. Guy
Under 15 Years	G. Wilson	S. Wilson	H. Bertram
<b>Under 18 Years Championship</b>	R. Dolan	W. Hayhurst	B. Brocklebank
<b>Girls</b>	M. Hirsch	L. Hirsch	T. Bertram
12½ Stone	J. Brown	M. Atkinson	J. Hayhurst
All Weights	G. Brocklebank	F. Hirsch	J. Hayhurst

## May 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

### SEDBERGH GALA

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday 26th May** - Longtown - Northern District YFC Field Day

**Monday June 4th 1.30pm** - Corbridge Northumberland Show

Sedbergh Gala on Saturday gave us the opportunity to see how the wrestlers from the South of our area had progressed through the winter, and an early indication of who is likely to figure in the prize lists this summer. Only the Gibson family from Southwaite and Jack Ewart from Wigton had travelled over Shap to pit their wits against the Kendal and Milnthorpe Club wrestlers.

The Wrestling Board had agreed to a flexible policy of being prepared to put on extra classes if there was, say, a number of younger or lighter wrestlers who would struggle in the advertised classes. So the organisers decided to add an Under 9 year's class. John Gibson shone in that class with a series of decisive back heels, though he did lose one fall in the final when he was twisted off the chip. He then went on to take third place in the Under 12 section, beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winner Thomas Hayhurst. In the Under 15s Sam Wilson gave an outstanding display, following a leaner season last year. Having beaten his old rival Thomas Gibson in the semi-final he had too much know how and ring craft for Kade McNally of Milnthorpe in the final. He showed how effective he is with the hank. The signs are that he could be in for a good season.

The best class of the day was the Under 18s where the Kendal contingent showed how good they are in that section. The final brought together two of the most improved wrestlers in Ben Brocklebank and Darryl Hodgson. Ben had accounted for William Atkinson in the semi-final, while Darryl had felled the Under 15 Champion James Hayhurst at the same stage. Hodgson triumphed in straight falls, the first one after he sat on Brocklebank's right leg as he came in to lift and the second with a classic outside stroke. The girls wrestling was won comfortably by Connie Hodgson in a final with Megan Gibson. Mention must be made here of Lizzie Hayhurst who showed how she has progressed over the winter.

In the men's wrestling, Ben Brocklebank turned the tables on Darryl Hodgson but his momentum came to a shuddering halt against big brother Graham in the 13 stones final. Graham in turn wrestled up to Joe Threlfall in the final of the All Weights. Although he

managed to get the middle fall by swinging his much heavier opponent off his feet, Brocklebank was unable to shake off the strong hold of Threlfall.

This weekend is blank with the next event being the Northern District of Young Farmers Clubs Field Day at Longtown when we see a mixture of experienced wrestlers and enthusiastic novices trying to win points for their respective clubs. Then the busy period starts with five events in the first week in June with two Championships up for grabs.

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

### Sedbergh Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	J. Gibson	J. Threlfall	T. Hodgson
Under 12 Years	T. Hayhurst	T. Hodgson	J. Gibson
Under 15 Years	S. Wilson	K. McNally	T. Gibson
Under 18 Years	D. Hodgson	B. Brocklebank	J. Hayhurst
Girls	C. Hodgson	M. Gibson	L. Hayhurst
13 Stone	G. Brocklebank	B. Brocklebank	D. Hodgson
All Weights	J. Threlfall	G. Brocklebank	J. Hayhurst

## May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012

### SPREADING THE WORD

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday, 26th May** - Longtown - Northern District YFC Field Day

**Monday, June 4th 1.30pm** - Corbridge Northumberland Show

The wrestling season never used to start until the very end of May, but already two events have taken place. Tomorrow, one of the biggest events of the year, numerically, takes place when novices and experts, the willing and the dragooned, meet in the ring at the Cumbria Northern Federation of Young Farmers Clubs Field Day at Facksonrigg Farm Longtown.

In the meantime, last week, nothing happened; except for the various initiatives that run independently and parallel to the wrestling season.



John Wilson, the Kendal coach, told me that the Ambleside Sports Scholarship Fund will be used to support a day of wrestling at Grasmere School. To their credit the local primary school has shown over the years a continued interest in the sport which takes place each year in the field just over the school wall.

Previously, some coaching by Andrew Carlile and Alan Jones led to active participation by some Grasmere youngsters. That fizzled out after a few years, but the renewed interest may lead to another resurgence, especially when the school lies in the catchment area for John Wilson's Kendal Academy.

Another initiative is being mounted by Penrith Museum, again with schools in mind. The museum already has artefacts and photos concerned with William Jameson, a famous wrestler from Penrith in the Nineteenth Century. They have also images of last wrestling season, and are seeking wrestling strips to display.

We also have our own itinerant photographer. While I, Linda and Julian record the hurly burly of the action at most wrestling events, David Ellison hovers quietly around with a more artistic eye, and a tripod. He says that his project, 'Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling', is "a photographic survey of the remote areas of Cumbria and Northumbria, where the sport takes centre stage at the rural summer gala type events". His work is in the Archive of Modern Conflict and Birmingham Central Library, as well as on various web-sites.

Finally, a new word floated my way this week: '**vexillology**' - the scientific study of flags and related emblems.

Philip Tibbetts, Assistant to the Chief-Vexillologist of the Flag Institute and an advisor to the Parliamentary Flags and Heraldry Committee, e-mailed me to say "*The Association of British Counties is keen to get a flag for Cumberland formally added to the UK Flag Registry, especially given that most of the county's English neighbours (Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire) are already recorded there. I have been asked to write to local Cumberland institutions and seek their approval for the design to be registered as the traditional county flag. As you still bear the name of the traditional county you are one of the strongest proponents of this important part of local heritage. I greatly look forward to hearing from you.*"

It's good that we are noticed !

**June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**

## THE NORTHERN DISTRICT FIELD DAY OF CUMBRIA YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Monday June 4th 1.30pm** - Northumberland Show Corbridge - U14 / U18 / Girls / Ladies / 11½ St / 13½ St / AW **Thursday**

**June 7th 6.45pm** - Killington - U9 / U12 / U15 / **8 St Championship** / Girls / U18 / 13 St / AW

**Saturday June 9th 1 pm** - Roman Wall - U13 / U17 / 11½ St / 13½ St / AW

**Saturday June 9th 3.30** Cumberland Show - U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / 8 St / 12 St / **15 St Championship** / AW

**Saturday June 9th 7 pm** - Low Gill - U7 / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / 12 St / AW

*"The youth of today" are lazy / rude / disrespectful / violent / greedy and hang around doing nothing all day* ..... or so the cliché goes. But anyone who was at Jacksonrigg Farm, near Longtown, last Saturday would tell you exactly the opposite. At the end of a long and busy day, more than a thousand young people surrounded the tug-o'-war competition without a policeman in sight. The Northern District Field Day of Cumbria Young Farmers Clubs involves a huge range of competitions and each of the clubs makes sure that everyone has a job, whether it is to write and recite a dialect poem, flower arranging, running 100 metres in wellies, shearing a sheep ..... or wrestling.

Of course, in the YFC ranks are several highly trained, successful wrestlers who grace our rings throughout the summer and autumn, and they had their success: Kieron Miller won the 9½ stones with his hiping; John Harrington felled David Miller with as good an outside-stroke as you will see all season in the final of the 11½ stones, but the Heavyweights went to a Novice, the big rugby player, Robert Marrs of Caldbeck YFC.

With plenty of power and wrestling instinct on display, the men's wrestling was never dull, but the women's wrestling was even better. From the start of the 10 stones, a little scrap of a lass, Nicola Smith of Brampton, or "Titch" as her own shirt proclaimed, proved that quality is better than quantity. She must have coiled springs inside her legs because they never buckled against bigger opposition until she reached the final against Fiona Laurie of Kirkclinton. Fiona knows about wrestling and has competed at Grasmere, but even she lost a fall to the mighty atom that is Nicola Smith before winning the day.



In the Over 10 stones again quality told. Each year I see Sandra Woodend of Drigg at the Waberthwaite Academy Open Night but she never goes on the mats these days. At the Field Day she came out of retirement, and we saw what we have been missing in recent years. Against bigger opposition throughout, she stayed balanced and in control, gained hold and then used it to hip and twist her opponents.

Alan Jones, the Carlisle Wrestling Club coach was an interested spectator, for all the competitors had to go through his hands to secure a letter of attendance at a wrestling club to enable them to compete. In his mind ten sessions each would have been a good idea, but at least those taking part had sampled competitive wrestling.

Wrestling becomes much more serious next week when the Northumberland Show takes place at Corbridge on Monday, and the Under 15/8st Championship is held on Thursday evening at Killington. On the following Saturday a wrestler can compete at three events: the Roman Wall Show at 1pm, the Cumberland Show (including the 15st Championship) at 3.30pm, and Lowgill at 7pm

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

### Young Farmer's Field Day - North Cumbria

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
9½ Stone	K. Miller	G. Irving	J. Dixon	T. Gibson
11½ Stone	J. Harrington	D. Miller	N. Jordan	G. Bowe
Over 11½ Stone	R. Marrs	G. Denby	J. Dickinson	I. Steel
Women 10 Stone	F. Laurie	N. Smith	M. Gibson	L. Potts
Women Over 10 Stone	S. Woodend	S. Magennis	F. Steele	A. McGregor

**June 7<sup>th</sup> 2012**

#### NORTHUMBERLAND SHOW

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday June 9th 1 pm - Roman Wall - U13 / U17 / 11½ St / 13½ St / AW**

**Saturday June 9th 3. 30 Cumberland Show - U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / 8 St / 12 St / 15 St Championship / AW**

**Saturday June 9th 7 pm - Low Gill - U7 / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / 12 St / AW**

THE wrestling at the Northumberland Show was a festival of youth with big entries in the younger categories.

Seniors were less prolific, so the presence of the Kendal wrestlers Matthew and William Atkinson and Carlisle's Jack Brown, who compete in the youth events but are also competitive in the men's events, was especially welcome.

Matthew Atkinson, in particular, had a great day, but he probably was unhappy initially when "little" brother William felled him in the semi-final of the Under 18s. William has developed a sudden backover twist which goes counter to the usual anti-clockwise movement that is drilled into our young wrestlers.

In the 13½st final they met again, and had a ding-dong battle which took five falls to settle. Matthew Atkinson is a great wrestler to watch as he swings and hipes, but against his brother it was "down to basics" eventually settled by two back-heels from Matthew.

Atkinson and his back-heel were still not finished for he reached the final of the All Weights, too. The high point of his afternoon came when he felled Jason Davidson in the semi-final. Davidson took an excellent middle fall with his trade-mark outside-hipe, but went down to the back-heel in the decider. That was as far as Atkinson's success went for he met the Northumbrian, Andrew, Ord, the Heavyweight Champion, in the final, and was unable to unsettle the strength, nous, and long legs of the champion.

Earlier, in the semi-finals, Ord was tested to the limit by Joe Threlfall of Preston. The stiffness of the test was emphasised by the two dog-falls which started their encounter. Threlfall, the heavier wrestler, sought to keep the tall Northumbrian under control with a strong grip before twisting over the knee. Ord, though, had enough strength to keep his distance and in the third bout, he stepped over Threlfall's trip and twisted him down. Another dog fall ensued before Ord went onto the offensive in the fifth hold. He managed to lift Threlfall briefly, not to fell him, but to unsettle his grip. When Threlfall tried to regain his hold with a twist, Ord countered with a back-heel and dropped his man to the ground.

The other senior weight was the 11½ stones where John Harrington was mainly in charge, though Jack Brown did take the first fall off him, and bothered him with his long-legged hank. The younger wrestlers are bringing the best out in Harrington and so it was when he took Brown away with hold, a hipe and a swing. In the final he met Craig Ridley of Slaggyford, a clever wrestler who pushed him hard and brought out his best: swings and twists and leg-ups.

Tomorrow is an exceptionally busy day for wrestlers with the possibility of competing at three events spaced out over the day. The Roman Wall Show is looking for a prompt start to wrestling at 1pm. The Cumberland Show, hosting the 15st World Championship, starts at 3.30pm, and then the Kendal wrestlers can head back to an evening event at Lowgill starting at 7pm.

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

### Northumberland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
U10 Years	G. Singer	J. Fothergill	W. Duncan
U14 Years	S. Wilson	H. Bertram	G. Wilson
Girls U15 Years	G. Coulthard	T. Bertram	
U18 Years	W. Atkinson	B. Blackburn	M. Atkinson
Women	F. Laurie	A. Ward	S. Laws
11½ Stone	J. Harrington	C. Ridley	J. Brown

Event	First	Second	Third
13½ Stone	M. Atkinson	W. Atkinson	J. Harrington
All Weights	A. Ord	M. Atkinson	J. Threlfall

## June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

TWO CHAMPIONSHIPS DECIDED IN THE RAIN

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Sunday June 24th 3pm - Patterdale - U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 11½ St / 13 St / AW**

**Saturday June 30th - Alston**

**Sunday July 1st - Langdale**

**Sunday July 1st - Distington**

**Saturday July 7th Skelton**

Two Championships were decided in the rain: the Under 15 Years/8stones at a damp and enthusiastic Killington Sports, and the 15 stones at the stark aftermath of the Cumberland Show with the wrestlers in the main ring while the big crowd is noisy but hidden in the Members' marquee.



The result at Killington was not unexpected, as Sam Wilson, son of Kendal Academy's Coach, John Wilson, has been one of our cleverest young wrestlers for a few years, held back only by his lack of weight. At Killington he was the right age and the right weight, and he fulfilled the expectations that were on him. Kane McNally of Milnthorpe Academy was the other finalist, and a worthy opponent, but it was Sam Wilson's day.



David Barnes, the new 15stones World Champion, was a surprise, not because his wrestling talent was unrecognised, but because we had forgotten about him. I trained his father, Michael, to wrestle in 1970 when I taught at Trinity School, Carlisle. He did well as a boy but disappeared from view. Years later he turned up with his two boys, Paul and David, and they trained at Carlisle under Tom Harrington and Alan Jones. In 2006 all that came to fruition when David entered for the CWWA Centenary 13½ Stones at Rothbury Mart. The £500 first prize drew 25 genuine contenders to the Mart and David Barnes was top man, winning the final bout with an unusual chip for a big man...the hank. Then he went off to work in Yorkshire, and only recently did he return to work at the new Sainsburys in Penrith.

In the final of the Championship he was up against the All Weights Champion, Andrew Ord, whose tall physique and prodigious strength is always a challenge to other wrestlers. Barnes, with no competitive experience for some time, had thought out a cunning plan, and he carried it out with stunning flair. As soon as the referee said "wrestle", he went close to his man, engaged the hank, fell



backwards and then tightened the throw to bring Ord over cleanly beneath him. Then he did it again. His skill was further recognised when Harold Armstrong awarded him the Guinness Trophy for the best performance of the day.

Three events on the Saturday, plus Killington two days before kept wrestlers busy, especially the Rothbury youngsters who seemed to be enjoying themselves in all parts of the area. Harry Bertram, won the Under 12s at Killington and entered every other event possible in the sports.

At the Roman Wall Show he acquitted himself so well that he was awarded the best performance trophy.

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

### Killington

Event	First	Second	Third
U9 Years	G. Singer	Jack Threlfall	L. Garnett
U12 Years	H. Bertram	A. Mullins	S. Gorst
U15 Years	A. Singer	S. Wilson	G. Wilson
U18 Years	M. Atkinson	B. Brocklebank	J. Bellamy
Girls U18 Years	C. Hodgson	H. Hodgson	R. Hodgson
U15 Years/8 St World Championship	S. Wilson	C. McNally	M. Hutchinson
13 Stone	G. Brocklebank	B. Orrego	B. Brocklebank
All Weights	T. Brocklebank	J. Hall	J. Robson

### Roman Wall Show

Event	First	Second	Third
U 12 Years	H. Bertram	A. Storey	G. Singer
U 16 Years	Joe Hall	T. Gibson	H. Bertram
11½ Stone	J. Harrington	Joe Hale	C. Whitfield
13½ Stone	J. Harrington	C. Moore	
All Weights	A. Ord	Jack Hale	J. Davidson

### Cumberland Show

Event	First	Second	Third
U12 Years	M. Wharton	H. Alecock	T. Hodgson
U15 Years	G. Wilson	Joe Hale	T. Gibson
Girls U15 Years	M. Gibson	R. Hodgson	G. Coulthard
U18 Years	M. Atkinson	W. Atkinson	G. Wilson
8 Stone	T. Wilson	M. Wharton	G. Singer
12 Stone	A. Carlile	D. Miller	G. Wilson
15 St World Championship	D. Barnes	A. Ord	Jack Hale
All Weights	A. Ord	Jack Hale	J. Davidson

### Lowgill

Event	First	Second	Third
U 7 Years	D. Preece	R. Hodgson	E. Preece
U 12 Years	H. Wilson	A. Hodgson	T. Hodgson
U 14 Years	A. Taylor	S. Wilson	A. Briggs
U 16 Years	S. Wilson	A. Taylor	A. Briggs
Girls	C. Hodgson	H. Hodgson	A. Walbank
12 Stone	B. Brocklebank	D. Hodgson	H. Hodgson
All Weights	G. Brocklebank	B. Brocklebank	D. Hodgson

**June 21<sup>st</sup> 2012**

UNDER 18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DECLARED VOID ..... RERUN AT ALSTON GALA

**NEWS UPDATE**

**DATES:**

**Sunday June 24th 3pm** - Patterdale 3 pm - U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 11½ St / 13 St / AW

**Saturday June 30th** - Alston 2pm - **INCLUDING U18 Championship**

**Sunday July 1st** - Langdale 2pm -U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / U21 and 11 Stone / Ladies 10St / Ladies Open / 13 St / AW

**Sunday July 1st** - Distington

**Saturday July 7th** - Skelton

**The CWWA Under 18 Years World Championship, held during the Hethersgill Vintage Rally at Carlisle Airport in early May,** has been declared void by the Wrestling Association and will be wrestled again in a week's time at Alston Gala.

The original winner, Ryan Dolan of Dundee Wrestling Club, was ineligible because he was already eighteen years old at the time of the event. Wrestlers from Kendal who went to compete in the Breton Backhold Championships in February thought that Dolan had competed in an older age-group over there, when our entries had to be verified by a passport. They checked his face-book page on the internet and found that the date-of-birth there made him too old to compete at Under 18. When contacted by the CWWA he eventually accepted that he was too old.

At present the Championship trophies and prize money are in the hands of Frazer Hirsch, a senior wrestler at the Dundee Wrestling Club, who has undertaken to return them in the next week.

Once it was established that the Championship result could not stand, what then had to happen? A special meeting of the CWWA Governing Board was convened last week and two options were discussed: should the results of the original competition stand, with the runner-up moving up to first place, or should the championship be declared void and wrestled again at a later date.

The situation was further complicated because the runner-up, William Hayhurst, has a shoulder injury, and was unlikely to compete in a future event. The point was also made that he had felled most of the main contenders on his way to the final. Considerable sympathy was expressed for William Hayhurst's situation, but it was pointed out that Dolan had felled other wrestlers in early rounds, and that his wrongful presence in a knockout draw skewed everything. There was overwhelming support for the Championship to be re-wrestled.

**The first suitable date was chosen so the 2012 Under 18 Years World Championship will be held at Alston Gala on Saturday, 30th June. Any wrestler who was in the original entry at Carlisle Airport, but has since reached his eighteenth birthday will be eligible to compete. Otherwise, the normal rule, that a wrestler must be the correct age on the day of the competition, stands.**

A subsequent meeting of the CWWA Disciplinary Committee handed out a three-month ban to Ryan Dolan, so he will be unable to compete in our affiliated events until late September.

Of course, if we had a membership system for all wrestlers, this problem would never have happened. The Scottish Wrestling Bond only allows wrestlers into competitions if they pay up for SWB membership. On the other hand, C&W wrestling has always been "open to the world". There are events such as that at Ennerdale Bridge where there are few regular wrestlers but a host of lads who give themselves and the spectators a grand display of competitive wrestling - our local heritage alive and well. Paperwork could kill that enthusiasm.

Age problems are nothing new for the CWWA Governing Board. In the earliest Minute Book held by the Secretary, dating from about 1910 a young lad was accused entering for an Under 16 class when he was over-age. There was no Disciplinary Committee for him. He was immediately passed on to the local Magistrates and charged with corruption. Happy Days!

On a lighter note, it is good that the Sumo wrestlers from Doncaster are still contemplating a visit to compete in some of our events. And at Arlecdon Primary School a wrestling session was put on by Craig Naylor and Jack Ewart. Last year the two of them travelled down to The Royal Cornish Show to give an exhibition for the Cornish wrestlers and were well received. Nearer at home, at Arlecdon School, Craig Naylor found "a lot of potential". Perhaps they will compete at Ennerdale this year.

**June 28<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## JACK BROWN WINS 3 EVENTS AT PATTERDALE

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>** - Alston 2pm - **INCLUDING U18 Championship**

**Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>** - Langdale 2pm -U9 / U12 / U15 / U18 / U21 and 11 St / Ladies 10St / Ladies Open / 13 St / AW

**Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>** - Distington - CANCELLED

**Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>** - Skelton - U13 / U16 / U18 / 11½ St/ **14 stone Championship** / AW

**Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>** - Haltwhistle

Ullswater was standing at High Tide and the Patterdale sports field was under water last Friday, but the wrestling at Ullswater Country Fair went ahead in surprisingly good conditions two days later. The sun almost shone.

Normally, Frazer Hirsch of Dundee would have been the furthest traveller, but his mileage was trumped by the Wasden brothers, Hunt and Chris, from Georgia in the USA. They gave a good account of themselves to reach the minor places, and enjoyed themselves so much that they plan to have another go at Alston tomorrow (Sat).

In the All Weights, Frazer Hirsch was up against stiff opposition in the form of the new 15st Champion, David Barnes, and former Under 18 Years Champion, Jimmy Hall. He lost the first fall to Barnes, but then went for hold and controlled the next two bouts, finishing, literally, on a high when he flicked the substantial Barnes over backwards at shoulder height. In the final against Hall, he showed his wrestling brain by winning the first with hold and a rush and then the second with the complete opposite, a buttock launched as the referee said, "wrestle".

Best and most hardworking of all at Patterdale was Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge who won three events. He was pushed every inch



of the way by two excellent Kendal wrestlers, Matthew Atkinson and Ben Brocklebank.



The highlight was the 11½st final when Ben Brocklebank took the first fall with a back-heel after a fluctuating bout. Brown then went for the hipe, twice, to win the day. Two days earlier he and David Miller had featured at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead in The Great Boxing Booth Revival. As it said in the programme: *"The Cumberland wrestlers in their official strip will demonstrate their ancient sport."* What the programme did not say was that Jack's father, Josie Brown, a man perhaps better known for his stand-up comedy, would be providing the commentary.

Grasmere Primary School had a day of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling with Kendal coach, John Wilson in charge. He complimented the school on the way they had prepared the children for the day, and the children on their enthusiastic participation.

Local Museums have been inspired by the Olympic year, to put on displays relating international sport to its regional roots. The Beacon at Whitehaven borrowed some vests from Paul Murray and an unused Lonsdale Belt from the British Boxing Board of Control as part of their "Fun and Games" exhibition in the Harbour Gallery. *"Opening to the public on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June with a preview evening for invited guests only on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, this free exhibition is the perfect opportunity to find out about a selection of thriving local sports and their history in West*

### Ullswater Country Fair - Patterdale

Event	First	Second	Third
U12 Years	H. Wilson	J. Winkley - Balmer	R. Alaam
U15 Years	S. Wilson	G. Wilson	H. Wasden
U18 Years	J. Brown	M. Atkinson	B. Brocklebank
Ladies	R. Alaam	B. Bell	
11½ Stone	J. Brown	B. Brocklebank	S. Wilson
13 Stone	J. Brown	B. Brocklebank	M. Atkinson
All Weights	F. Hirsch	J. Hall	D. Barnes

## July 6<sup>th</sup> 2012

### ALSTON AND LANGDALE GALA RESULTS

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday July 7th** - Skelton - CANCELLED

**Sunday July 8th** - Haltwhistle

**Sunday July 8th** - 2.00 Haltwhistle U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / Novices / 11½ st / 13 st / AW

**Sunday July 15th** - 2.15 - Great Ecclestone

## Langdale



After all the trauma and meetings occasioned by the discredited Under 18 Championship at Hethersgill Vintage Rally in May, it was a pleasure to watch the intense competition when the event was wrestled afresh at Alston Gala. The new champion is Ben Brocklebank of Warton who showed great levels of skill, strength and technique as he seized the renewed opportunity.

In the first round he met Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge who is his match pound for pound, inch for inch, and skill for skill. On this occasion, though, Brocklebank swept him aside with two opposite chips. First, he gained hold and then hoisted Brown high and then suddenly back over in a sort of salto in mid air. For the next fall he went full blast and brought Brown over with a full buttock.

In the next rounds he met younger wrestlers and kept them well under control, until he reached the final with Matthew Atkinson who took the first fall with a succession of hipes clinched by an outside-stroke. Brocklebank had to raise his game, and did when he equalised with an inside-hipe of his own. The decider also went to Brocklebank's hipe, but this time it was low and sudden.

Ben's win is another triumph for the Brocklebank dynasty which has been a powerful force in wrestling for 45 years and three generations.

In the 11½ stones John Harrington had to be at his best to keep the young callants at bay. He hiped Ben Brocklebank twice, was hiped himself by Jack Brown in the final, but had the last say with two outside hipes delivered with power, speed and intent.

Graham Brocklebank swept through the 13 stones with his vigorous style and looked like doing the same in the All Weights when he took the first fall from Heavyweight champion, Andrew Ord, by gaining hold and twisting over the knee. Ord had some thinking to do, and he responded with a low outside hipe to equalise. The decider was not clear cut, but Ord managed to fall last as the two twisted to the ground.

In the final, local lad Joe Thompson made a popular return to the ring, and took the first fall against Ord, but lost the next two.

On the next day wrestlers and visitors ignored the heavy rain at Langdale Gala. Jack Brown took his revenge on Ben Brocklebank and won the Under 18s, but that was immediately reversed in the Under 21/11stones. These two lads are going to entertain a lot of crowds this year if they can keep up this level of action.

The rest of the day was Graham Brocklebank's, who won both the 13 stones and All Weights, though Adrian Myers made him work for it in the 13st final, and Joseph Robson pushed him hard in the All Weights.

## Alston



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

#### Alston Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
U 9 Years	J. Gibson	J. Reid	Joshua
U12 Years	H. Wilson	M. Wilson	
U15 Years	S. Wilson	G. Wilson	T. Hayhurst
<b>U18 Years Championship</b>	B. Brocklebank	M. Atkinson	G. Wilson
11½ Stone	J. Harrington	J. Brown	B. Brocklebank
13 Stone	G. Brocklebank	W. Atkinson	M. Atkinson
All Weights	A. Ord	J. Thompson	G. Brocklebank

#### Langdale Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
U 9 Years	J. Gibson	I. Cawfield	Edward
U12 Years	T. Hayhurst	J. Gibson	
U15 Years	T. Gibson	H. Wasden	S. Wilson
U18 Years	J. Brown	S. Wilson	G. Wilson
U 21 Years / 11st	B. Brocklebank	S. Wilson	G. Wilson
13 Stone	G. Brocklebank	A. Myers	B. Brocklebank
All Weights	G. Brocklebank	J. Robson	G. Benson

## July 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

### NOVICES ENJOY THE COMPETITION AT HALTWHISTLE GALA

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Sunday July 15th - 2.15 - Great Ecclestone**

U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 13st / AW

**Saturday July 21st - Kirkheaton CANCELLED**

**Sunday July 22nd - 2.30 Coniston U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½ st / 13 st / AW**

**Wednesday July 25th - North Lonsdale Show**

**Friday July 27th - Langholm Common Riding**

The wrestling at Haltwhistle Gala has a flavour of its own with experts travelling from distance, a smattering of trained locals, novices with brawny arms and great support, and a bloke dressed as a woman. Add in all the young lads who rushed to enter for the boys' Novice class at the end of the main programme and you have a lively entertainment for the big crowd that flocks over the Tyne from the town.



Haltwhistle is home to an excellent wrestler, Alan Walton, who is now a veteran and only wrestles at this one event each year. Last year he was knocked out in a bout in the 13 stones, and still won. This year he won in less dramatic circumstances. As in his hey day he relied on gaining a good hold, and striking with the back-heel or a twist over the knee. Jack

Brown in the first round reacted to this spectacularly with one fall when he countered the back-heel with a hank. Otherwise, Walton was in control, felling Craig Ridley in straight falls in the final.

Jack Brown had already won the Under 18 Years and the 11½ stones, looking like the champion he is, and his adventures continued when he reached the final of the All Weights against Andrew Ord, the All Weights champion. Because of the weight difference the result seemed a formality, especially after Ord took the first fall in typical fashion with an outside-hipe with the left knee. In the soggy conditions, Jack Brown dived under and across Ord's long legs, and, crucially, kept the momentum going until he landed him. Andrew Ord has a habit of losing the odd fall then coming back to win the decider with more thought, control, and an outside-hipe.

Usually, the final of the All Weights would signal the end of wrestling for the day, but at Haltwhistle it was the beginning of the real action for the youngsters gathered round the ring, for it was their turn to star. Having seen the trained wrestlers in action, they knew what to do and displayed all the natural athleticism and enthusiasm of youth.

In the previous week, after all the trauma and meetings occasioned by the discredited Under 18 Championship at Hethersgill Vintage Rally in May, it was a pleasure to watch the intense competition when the event was wrestled afresh at Alston Gala. The new champion is Ben Brocklebank of Warton who showed great levels of skill, strength and technique as he seized the renewed opportunity.

In the first round he met Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge who is his match pound for pound, inch for inch, and skill for skill. On this occasion, though, Brocklebank swept him aside with two opposite chips. First, he gained hold and then hoisted Brown high and then suddenly back over in a sort of salto in mid air. For the next fall he went full blast and brought Brown over with a full buttock.

In the next rounds he met younger wrestlers and kept them well under control, until he reached the final with Matthew Atkinson who took the first fall with a succession of hipes clinched by an outside-stroke. Brocklebank had to raise his game, and did when he equalised with an inside-hipe of his own. The decider also went to Brocklebank's hipe, but this time it was low and sudden.

Ben's win is another triumph for the Brocklebank dynasty which has been a powerful force in wrestling for 45 years and three generations.

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

### Haltwhistle Gala

Event	First	Second	Third
U12 Years	G. Singer	L. Briddock	
U18 Years	J. Brown	G. Wilson	A. Singer
Boy's Novice	C. Balush	D. Hepple	A. Archibald
Men's Novice	A. Houghton	B. Sloan	J. Hodgson
11½ Stone	J. Brown	B. Sloan	C. Naylor
13 Stone	A. Walton	C. Ridley	C. Naylor
All Weights	A. Ord	J. Brown	C. Ridley

**July 20<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## NEWS UPDATE

### DATES:

**Saturday July 21st** - Kirkheaton CANCELLED

**Sunday July 22nd** - 2.30 Coniston U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½ st / 13 st / AW

**Wednesday July 25** 2.00 North Lonsdale 2.00 U12 / U15 / 11½st / 13st / AW

**Thursday July 26** 1.00 Ambleside U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / 8/11½st / 12½st / AW

**Friday July 27** 2.30 Langholm U12 / U16 / Ladies / 11½ st/ 13st / AW

**Saturday July 28** 2.30 Penrith U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies /11½st / 13st /AW

**Saturday July 28** Beetham

**Sunday July 29** Flookburgh



Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling has some strange companions at the various events where it is held, but none is noisier and more dynamic than a 6000 horse-power tractor rearing and surging, and pulling an impossible trailer along a 100 metre track at Great Ecclestone Show. Even in the much quieter main ring a procession of vintage tractors trundled past as the wrestlers hiped and hanked in their corner.

The wrestling day began well for the Threlfall family, and ended well, too. An impromptu Under 10 Years event brought Jack Threlfall against John Gibson and together they wrestled with skill and panache beyond their years. In the end Threlfall won the deciding fall with a right side wrench buttock. His eye-catching skills did not end there for he came second in the Under 12's still wrestling his heart out.

At the other end of the wrestling programme, Jack's father, Joe Threlfall, was successful in the All Weights when he hoisted Graham Brocklebank around the ring in the final. With hipe upon hipe, then a twist, Threlfall bossed Brocklebank with his power and know-how.



The end result is that Joe Threlfall won the All Weights trophy, and young Jack went one better by winning the best performance trophy, judged by local worthy, Max Carlyle, and donated in memory of Jack's grandfather, Bill Threlfall. Great Ecclestone Show is held a short distance from St Michael's-on-Wyre village hall where Bill Threlfall founded and ran the wrestling academy which revitalised wrestling in Lancashire from 1970 onwards.



A good contingent of wrestlers from Milnthorpe Academy, and a selection from the Wilson and Brocklebank families ensured some strong competition throughout the programme. Best of the Milnthorpe wrestlers was Joe Lashley, who won a competitive Under 15s, felling Thomas Gibson of Carlisle in the final. Gibson took the first fall, winning by a short head as they launched forward and down to the ground, but Lashley struck back to win the next two falls.



Brothers Ben and Graham Brocklebank then took over: Ben was in the full control that comes from height, strength and hiping skills to win the Under 18s. He then battled gamely but unsuccessfully with big brother in the 13st final. The pattern was repeated when Graham in turn "battled gamely, but unsuccessfully" in the next final against heavyweight Joe Threlfall.



With the unprecedented summer rainfall another event has been called off. An email from the Gilsland Show secretary said that "Gilsland Show Committee voted unanimously tonight to cancel the show this year. The field has not yet been cut and is standing in water and with the forecast not good we have made the decision to cancel." The amazing thing is how many events have survived.

Only Coniston is on this coming week-end, but in the following week wrestling could become a full-time job for a while with events next Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday....weather permitting.

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

### Great Ecclestone Show

Event	First	Second	Third
U10 Years	Jack Threlfall	J. Gibson	
U12 Years	H. Wilson	J. Threlfall	J. Gibson
U15 Years	J. Lashley	T. Gibson	S. Wilson
U18 Years	B. Brocklebank	J. Bellamy	J. Lashley
13 Stone	G. Brocklebank	B. Brocklebank	S. Wilson
All Weights	J. Threlfall	G. Brocklebank	B. Brocklebank

## July 26<sup>th</sup> 2012

**KENDAL RULE OK !**

**NEWS UPDATE**

**DATES:**

**Friday July 27** 2.30 Langholm U12 / U16 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

**Saturday July 28** 2.30 Penrith U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

**Saturday July 28th** - 2.00pm Beetham U12 / U14 / U16 / U18 / Girls / 12.5st / AW

**Sunday July 29** 12.30 Flookburgh U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 11.5st / 13st / AW

**Saturday August 4th** 1.00 Cockermouth U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11.5st / 13st / AW

**Saturday August 4th** - 2.30 Powburn U10 / U13 / U16 / 11.5st / AW / Local Novices

**Sunday August 5th Gilsland CANCELLED**

**Thursday August 9th** 3.00 Ings U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 12.5st / AW

Coniston Country Fair was a show place for Kendal Academy for they provided six winners, ranging from Harold Wilson in the Under 12s to the All Weights victor, Joseph Robson.

The only exception to the Kendal rule was lightweight champion Jack Brown who trains at Carlisle. He travelled the long and winding road from his home in Northumberland to the far west of Cumbria where the Coniston showfield is on the shoreline of the lake. His presence continued a wrestling feast which ensues when he and Ben Brocklebank meet in the ring. The two lads are perfectly matched by age, stature, experience, determination and skill.

Brocklebank struck first when the two met in the semi-final of the Under 18s and it took all three falls to produce a winner. A buttock, low to the ground, after much tussling, gave first blood to Brocklebank.

Of course, as usual, the story did not end there because Jack Brown picked himself up, dusted himself down (not that there is much dust around, this year) and started all over again in the 11½ Stones. He and Ben Brocklebank met, inevitably, in the final and Jack

took the first fall in bustling fashion with a hipe. In the next hold he was struggling to survive when Ben took all the hold, but he saved the day with a cross-click which sat his opponent on the grass.



Strangely enough that was as far as these two progressed for each was eliminated from the 13 stones by Adrian Myers, a local who works in the fells and turns out at a few wrestling events each year. At Langdale Gala Graham Brocklebank had struggled to beat Myers, but this time in the Coniston final he bossed the show with a hipe and back-heel. The All Weights was a tough test for the eventual winner, Joseph Robson, for he had to beat all the main contenders. In the first round Thomas Brocklebank used his power well to control Robson and rush him forward to the ground. After that, though, Robson settled into his clever style of wrestling where he moves his opponent around apparently not doing very much until he suddenly strikes with a cross-buttock when a half chance appears.

He continued in the same vein in the next round against Graham Brocklebank for the first fall, but then lost the second. For the decider Robson came out positively and won with an outside-hipe and a big twist.



The final with 15st Champion David Barnes was an interesting but scrappy affair. In the first fall Barnes went for the hank, which he used so devastatingly against Andrew Ord in the championship final, but this time Robson managed to smother it, and Barnes fell first. The second fall ended messily when the two wrestlers fell together as Robson tried to buttock, but Barnes had broken hold in



mid action.

Harold Wilson won the Under 12s twice after a late-comer for the main competition provided an impromptu challenge match. Sam Wilson, so used to struggling against heavier opposition, had a comparatively easy ride to win the Under 15s, though he did have to resort to full out hank against George Wilson in the semi-final.

The Threlfall family on a camping/wrestling excursion to Cumbria, provided most of the wrestlers at North Lonsdale Show, near Ulverston. The closest fought final was the 13 stones when Wayne Rothery took a fall from James Hayhurst with a twist over the knee, but was beaten in the decider.

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

### Coniston Country Fair

Event	First	Second	Third
U12 Years	H Wilson	O Tillwood	J Edmundson
U15 Years	S Wilson	J Wilson	G Wilson
U18 Years	B Brocklebank	G Wilson	J Brown
Girls	D Wilson	S Quich	O Wilson
11½ stone	J Brown	B Brocklebank	S Reichel
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	A Myers	J Brown.
All Weights	J Robson	D Barnes	G Brocklebank

#### North Lonsdale Show

Event	First	Second	Third
U12 Years	Jack Threlfall	Jacob Threlfall	J Haughton
U16 Years	J Hayhurst	Joshua Threlfall.	J Sweetnam
13 Stone	J Hayhurst	W Rothery	J Sweetnam.
All Weights	Joe Threlfall	J Hayhurst	W Rothery

## August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

### NORTHERN LAKELAND SPORTS COMPETE WITH SOUTHERN OLYMPIC SPORTS FOR ATTENTION

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday August 4th** 1.00 Cockermouth U12 / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11.5st / 13st / AW

**Saturday August 4th** - 2.30 Powburn U10 / U13 / U16 / 11.5st / AW / Local Novices

**Sunday August 5th** *Gilsland CANCELLED*

**Thursday August 9th** 3.00 Ings U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 12.5st / AW

**Saturday August 11th** - 12.00 Dalston U12 / U15 / **U18-10st Championship** / 11½st / 13st / AW

**Sunday August 12th** - Forestburngate

**Tuesday August 14th** - Kirkby Lonsdale

Six events in five days meant a busy time for wrestlers, organisers and supporters. While the 2012 Olympics is showcasing London's iconic sites and sights, we in our area watched excellent wrestling in the midst of an agricultural show, a horse racing track at a Border's Common Riding, a village sports meeting, a massive steam gathering with soot in the air and huge decibels in our ears, and a big traditional Lakeland Sports meeting with the mountains looming round.



In a successful year of fine wrestling Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge and Carlisle Wrestling Club will have special satisfaction in his achievements at Ambleside Sports. All did not begin well, because he was conspicuously absent from the prizewinners in the Under 18 Years, but in the 11½ and 12½ stones he was unbeatable. In the biggest test, the final of the 12½st against John Harrington he oozed confidence and went for his trips, hipes followed in by back-heels.



Henry Hail had no hesitation in awarding him the Guinness Trophy for the best performance in all the wrestling.

My other highlight of the week came at Penrith Show when Richard Fox was applauded back into the ring for the 13 stones after such a long absence. You could see that he was ring-rusty to begin with but as each bout progressed he improved further.



In the final he lost the first fall to a Jack Brown hipe, but he fought back with a twist over the knee, and clinched the win with a trademark buttock. It was good to see him later wandering in the crowd with a cup in his hand and a smile on his face.

When I sit down to type up the results, I know that my task will be greater when the Brocklebank family has been travelling around with their long surname and three brothers at nicely spaced ages and weights. Last week they were everywhere in the results, culminating at Flookburgh where each of the Brocklebank brothers, Ben, Graham and Thomas, all had wins in the rain.

Archie Singer of Rothbury had a strange upside down sort of week. At Ambleside he did what he was supposed to do when he stormed through the Under 15 Years with power and panache. At Langholm, in the Under 16s he was felled by James Hayhurst in the semi-final. In the 11½ stones he reached the final with Jack Brown and took the middle fall, and then in the All Weights he played David to Kevin O'Neil's Goliath and won himself a place in the final where he was beaten by John Harrington.



Harrington had a strange week, under performing at Ambleside, but slowly pulling himself up to better form and fortune at Langholm though James Hayhurst did fell him in a brilliant final of the 13 stones when each wrestler was at his fastest both in defence and attack. In the decider there were six or seven chances to win before Hayhurst got the last twist.

The toughest final of the week was at Ambleside where Stuart Fleming and Joe Threlfall battled out a war of attrition. Fleming won the first by jumping ahead of Threlfall's hipe then landing and twisting. Threlfall is strong and fit this season, and he came near with late twists, but Fleming was able to resist and there were three dog-falls until Threlfall had to retire with an injured shoulder.

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

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	H Bertram	G Singer.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	J Lashley	S Wilson.
Under 18 Years	M Atkinson	B Brocklebank	T Gibson.
Girls Under 14	D Wilson	R Hodgson	A Marston.
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	G Hodgson Stainton	M Gibson
11½ Stone	Brown	B Brocklebank	S Lashley.
12½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	B Brocklebank
14 Stone	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	W Atkinson
All Weights	S Fleming	J Threlfall	G Brocklebank.
Guinness Trophy	Jack Brown.		

#### LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Gibson	H Alecock	T Berry.
Under 16 Years	J Hayhurst	S Wilson	A Singer.
Ladies	M Gibson	A Maerston	M Berry.
11½ Stone	J Brown	A Singer	C Friel
13 Stone	J Hayhurst	J Harrington	J Gillespie.
All Weights	J Harrington	A Singer	J Elliot.

#### PENRITH SHOW .....

Event	First	Second	Third
* Under 9 Years	J Gibson	H Wales	C Wharton.
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	G Coulthard	M Wharton.
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	S Wilson	T Wales.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	W Atkinson	K Miller.
Under 15 Girls	M Gibson	L Murray	F Laurie.
11½ Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	P Murray.
13 Stone	R Fox	D Miller	M Atkinson.
All Weights	D Barnes	M Atkinson	J Hall.

#### BEETHAM SPORTS

Event	First	Second	Third
* Under 6 Years	J Strickland	M Stainton	R Hodgson
Under 12 Years	J Harker	A Harker	C Strickland.
Under 14 Years	J Lashley	S Patterson	J Harker.
Under 16 Years	J Lashley	K McNally	J Winton.
Under 18 Years	B Brocklebank	J Lashley	K McNally.
12½ Stone	B Brocklebank	J Lashley	K McNally.
All Weights	G Brocklebank	B Brocklebank	J Lashley

#### FLOOKBURGH STEAM GATHERING

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	T Hayhurst	R Hodgson.
Under 15 Years	J Lashley	S Wilson	G Wilson.
Under 18 Years	B Brocklebank	M Atkinson	S Wilson.
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	G Hodgson-Stainton	R Hodgson
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	M Atkinson;	B Brocklebank.
All Weights	T Brocklebank	J Hall	T Hodgson.

## August 9<sup>th</sup> 2012

### COCKERMOUTH AND POWBURN SHOWS

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday August 11th** - 12.00 - Dalston U12yrs / U15 / **U18-10st Championship** / 11½st / 13st / AW  
**Sunday August 12th** - 2pm - Forestburngate U10yrs / U12 / U15 / U21 / 12½st / 15½st / AW  
**Tuesday August 14th** - 3pm - Kirkby Lonsdale U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls / 12½st / AW  
**Saturday August 18th** - 1230pm - Allendale - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 11½st / 14st / AW  
**Saturday August 18th** - 2.00pm - Gosforth - U10yrs / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / **10½st Championship** / 12st / AW  
**Saturday August 18th** - 2.00pm - Rusland - U9yrs / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 12½st / AW  
**Sunday August 19th** - 2.30pm - Torver - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume.  
**Saturday August 25th** - Newcastleton - **CANCELLED**  
**Saturday August 25th** - 3.15pm - Bellingham - U12yrs / U16 / Novices / Ladies / 7st / 9st / 12st / 14st / AW  
**Saturday August 25th** - 3pm Millom & Broughton - U12yrs / Local U15 / U16 / U18 / 12st / AW  
**Sunday August 26th** - 11am - Grasmere U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 8st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW  
Females U15 / U18 / 10st / AW  
**Monday August 27th** - 12.00 - Silloth - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / **11st Championship** / 13st / AW  
**Wednesday August 29th** - 2.30pm - Ennerdale U12yrs / **U15 Championship** / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW  
**Thursday August 30th** - 1245 - Crosby Ravensworth - Costume / U13yrs / U16 / U18 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW  
**Thursday August 30th** - 3.30pm - Grayrigg - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 9st / 11½st / 13st / AW ..... Females - U15 yrs / Open  
**Friday August 31st** - 6.30pm - Rothbury - U8 yrs / U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / 9st / 11st / 13st / 15st / AW .....Females - U16yrs / AW  
**Saturday September 1st** - 3.00pm - Lowick U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 12½ / AW  
**Saturday September 1st** - **2.00pm** - Harbottle - Juniors / Novices / 12 st / AW  
**Saturday September 1st** - 3.15pm - Hesket New Market - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls / Novices / 12½st  
**Sunday September 2nd** 3.30pm - Loweswater - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW  
**Sunday September 2nd** 1.45pm - Wolsingham - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11st / 12st / 14st / AW  
**Sunday September 9th** 1pm - Stanhope - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW  
**Sunday September 9th** 3.30pm - Whitfield - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW  
**Thursday September 13th** - 1.30pm - Westmorland Show - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Girls Open / U21yrs & 11st / 12st / 13st / **14st Championship** / AW

Simultaneously, wrestling attracted the crowds at Cockermouth Show and Powburn Show in Northumberland, while I was wrestling with Belted Galloway cattle as judge at Dumfries Show.



In the weather lottery, Cockermouth had mixed fortune: sunburn was a problem one minute, then the next the organisers were bundling into a car ringside to keep the book and tickets useable. Just as quickly the heat and crowd returned for a feast of wrestling, nicely spiced by the Kendal wrestlers.



Harold Wilson continued his run of success in the Under 12s, and Sam Wilson backed him up by winning the Under 15s. Best of all, though, was Matthew Atkinson who won the Under 18s in a final with Kieron Miller, and then stepped up to win the men's 13 stones with a final against Kieron's big brother, David.



John Harrington from Bewaldeth and the Miller brothers from Aspatria made the 11½ stones an all Carlisle affair. They may live on their farms some distance from Carlisle, but that is where the wrestling club is based which developed their wrestling talent.

The All Weights, too, went Carlisle's way when David Barnes continued his resurgence in wrestling since he returned to the area in his management career within Sainsbury's. Not surprisingly it was the tenacious John Harrington who was his final opponent.

Meanwhile, in Northumberland at Powburn Show, there was a father and son act to stir the blood. Jason Davidson, one of the Rothbury coaches, and now a veteran wrestler, watched on as his son Thomas felled the usually all-conquering Gus Singer in the Under 10s. Much later, he himself was star of the show when he outside-stroked and twisted Andrew Ord over the knee in the semi-final, before going on to fell Gareth Randall in the final.

Jack Brown stuck to his Northumbrian roots and travelled to Powburn to continue his long list of wins in the lightweights this year.

Meanwhile the Bretons have invited a carload of wrestlers to participate at their big wrestling event at Guingamp Festival where both backhold and Gouren wrestling features. Accommodation for August 19-21st, and transport from the ferry is an added inducement.

Any interested wrestler should email [jfhubert@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:jfhubert@univ-rennes1.fr) for details.



**WEBMASTER NOTICE**

Weekly updates to the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling site between now and mid September may be delayed because of holiday commitments. For this reason, an extended NEWS UPDATE of event dates is included here which can be referred to at any time as a guidance. However, there is no guarantee that these details will not change due to unforeseen circumstances - particularly weather ! *Click on location name for map and how to get there.*

The complete 2012 CWWA Diary of events is available here:

<http://www.cumberland-westmorland-wrestling-association.com/CWWAwrestlingvenues2012.html>

To download ..... mouse Right click/'save picture as'.

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

COCKERMOUTH SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
* Under 8 Years	Z Graves	N McDowell	N Welford
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	J Blamire	J Wales.
Under 15 Years	S Wilson	J Blamire	G Wilson.
Under 18 Years	M Atkinson	K Miller	J Welford.
11½ Stone	J Harrington	K Miller	D Miller
13 Stone	M Atkinson	D Miller	J Harrington.
All Weights	D Barnes	J Harrington	J Addyman.

POWBURN SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	T Davidson	G Singer	W McDougall
Under 13 Years	H Bertram	D Swiss	J Bruce.
Under 16 Years	C Carlyle	H Bertram	J Bruce.
Novices	J Bone	C Carlyle	G Randall
11½ Stone	J Brown	C Carlyle	G Randall.
All Weights	J Davidson	G Randall	A Ord.

## August 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

### KIERAN MILLER WINS UNDER 18/10 STONE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

[Saturday August 18th](#) - 1230pm - Allendale - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 11½st / 14st / AW

[Saturday August 18th](#) - 2.00pm - Gosforth - U10yrs / U12 / U14 / U16 / Girls / **10½st Championship** / 12st / AW

[Saturday August 18th](#) - 2.00pm - Rusland - U9yrs / U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 12½st / AW

[Sunday August 19th](#) - 2.30pm - Torver - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW / Costume.

[Saturday August 25th](#) - Newcastleton - **CANCELLED**

[Saturday August 25th](#) - 3.15pm - Bellingham - U12yrs / U16 / Novices / Ladies / 7st / 9st / 12st / 14st / AW

[Saturday August 25th](#) - 3pm Millom & Broughton - U12yrs / Local U15 / U16 / U18 / 12st / AW

[Sunday August 26th](#) - 11am - Grasmere U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 8st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW

Females U15 / U18 / 10st / AW

[Monday August 27th](#) - 12.00 - Silloth - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / **11st Championship** / 13st / AW

[Wednesday August 29th](#) - 2.30pm - Ennerdale U12yrs / **U15 Championship** / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

[Thursday August 30th](#) - 1245 - Crosby Ravensworth - Costume / U13yrs / U16 / U18 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW

[Thursday August 30th](#) - 3.30pm - Grayrigg - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 9st / 11½st / 13st / AW ..... Females - U15 yrs / Open



Kieran Miller confirmed his status as a top-rate wrestler when he won the Under 18/10st Championship staged this year at Dalston Show. Lightweight boys have a hard road to travel when they are youngsters. Most of the wrestling categories are by age and favour the heavier and taller boys. Kieran, and his brother David before him, have had to endure losing to wrestlers who are inferior to them in skill and experience. Year by year, on the training mats at Carlisle Wrestling Club we have seen Kieran always trying hard, always playing the right chips, wrestling with flair, but not always succeeding. At Dalston Show it was his moment when the 10st limit meant that he was meeting opponents no bigger than himself.



His chief threat came from an unexpected quarter. Philip Potts who lives within easy walking distance of the Dalston showfield has all the right credentials for his father was a champion wrestler noted for his left side hipe. In addition, he has been a regular at Carlisle Wrestling Club and had the same training as Kieran, but not recently. He enjoys his rugby and the training night clashes with the wrestling so he has been missing from the mats for a couple of years. Although a competent wrestler he has never shone as brightly as he did at Dalston last week.

His route to the final saw him competing against Sam Wilson of Kendal and Thomas Gibson of Southwaite, both prolific winners so he had tough bouts which he won with twist and counters.

The final was a closely fought affair, but Kieran Miller had the extra skill factor with his hipes and that gave him the victory.



On paper the results of the men's events were not unexpected: John Harrington of Bewaldeth won the 11½ stones and Richard Fox of Hethersgill the 13 stones, but they had to work hard for their success. Jack Brown as usual this year pushed John Harrington to his limits, but some extra zip in his outside-hipes gave Harrington a successful day. Richard Fox had a late start to the season, so he is in catching-up mode and his back-heels are flowing better, and we see the occasional glimpse of the buttocking which send all opposition flying.

The All Weights brought the two Barnes brothers, Paul and David, together in the first round, and it was good to see the lighter Paul take a great fall from his 15st champion brother. David Barnes, though, remedied that and went on to reach the final with Jack Ewart, who put up an excellent show before Barnes' hiping gave him the win.

Early in the action two Carlisle Wrestling Club members, Mark Wharton and Thomas Gibson set up the trend for Carlisle wins. Wharton showed real class as he hiped his way to victory, and Gibson had to fell his nemesis, Sam Wilson, on his way to victory.

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

INGS SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Coulthard	Jacob Threlfall	Jack Threlfall
Under 15 Years	S Wilson	G Wilson	Jack Threlfall
Under 18 Years	J Brown	J Hayhurst	S Wilson.
Girls	C Hodgson	G Coulthard	T Molleghan
12½ Stone	J Hayhurst	J Brown	G Wilson.
All Weights	J Threlfall	T Hodgson	J Brown

DALSTON SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	J Wales		J Hetherington.
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	T Wales	S Wilson.
Under 18 Yrs/10 St World Championship	K Miller	P Potts	S Wilson.
11½ Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	J Ward.
13 Stone	R Fox	J Harrington	J Reay
All Weights	D Barnes	J Ewart	J Harrington.

FORESTBURNGATE .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	T Davidson	D Nellis	G Coulthard.
Under 12 Years	H Bertram	T Davidson	G Coulthard.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	C Whitfield	J Bruce.
Under 21 Years	J Hale	J Brown	H Wall
12½ Stone	J Brown	C Carlyle	H Wall.
15½ Stone	A Ord	J Davidson	J Hale.
All Weights	J Hale	J Davidson;	A Ord

LUNESDALE SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
* Under 9 Years	A Harker	R Hodgson	M Stainton.
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	T Hayhurst	E Robson.
Under 15 Years	S Wilson	T Gibson	K McNally.
Under 18 Years	B Brocklebank	S Wilson	G Wilson
Girls	C Hodgson	G Stainton	M Gibson.
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Hayhurst	B Brocklebank
All Weights	J Threlfall	D Barnes	G Brocklebank.

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012**

## NEWS UPDATE

### DATES:

**Saturday August 25th** - Newcastleton - **CANCELLED**

**Saturday August 25th** - 3.15pm - Bellingham - U12yrs / U16 / Novices / Ladies / 7st / 9st / 12st / 14st / AW

**Saturday August 25th** - 3pm Millom & Broughton - U12yrs / Local U15 / U16 / U18 / 12st / AW

**Sunday August 26th** - 11am - Grasmere U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 8st / 11st / 12st / 13st / 14st / AW

Females U15 / U18 / 10st / AW

**Monday August 27th** - 12.00 - Silloth - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Ladies / **11st Championship** / 13st / AW

**Wednesday August 29th** - 2.30pm - Ennerdale U12yrs / **U15 Championship** / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

**Thursday August 30th** - 1245 - Crosby Ravensworth - Costume / U13yrs / U16 / U18 / Girls U18 / 13st / AW

**Thursday August 30th** - 3.30pm - Grayrigg - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 9st / 11½st / 13st / AW ..... Females - U15 yrs / Open

**Friday August 31st** - 6.30pm - Rothbury - U8 yrs / U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / 9st / 11st / 13st / 15st / AW .....Females - U16yrs / AW

**Saturday September 1st** - 3.00pm - Lowick U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 12½ / AW

**Saturday September 1st** - 2.00pm - Harbottle - Juniors / Novices / 12 st / AW

**Saturday September 1st** - 3.15pm - Hesket New Market - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls / Novices / 12½st

**Sunday September 2nd** 3.30pm - Loweswater - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

**Sunday September 2nd** 1.45pm - Wolsingham - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11st / 12st / 14st / AW

**Sunday September 9th** 1pm - Stanhope - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

**Sunday September 9th** 3.30pm - Whitfield - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

**Thursday September 13th** - 1.30pm - Westmorland Show - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Girls Open / U21yrs & 11st / 12st / 13st / **14st Championship** / AW

In 2009 at Gosforth Show I saw a Land Rover with a canoe on its roof-rack, and admired the driver's good sense. The conditions were even worse this year. Many's the time I have been towed off a showfield, but for the first time I had to be towed onto the field and to the wrestling ring. With fog and rain and mud, and with two other events (Allendale and Rusland Shows) to spread the wrestlers thinly, the day could have been a disaster for Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling.

BUT the sun came out literally and metaphorically at each event, as the wrestlers from local academies and fit lads from the crowd put on a crowd-pleasing show of wrestling at Allendale, Rusland and Gosforth.



Gosforth had the additional incentive of the 10½st World Championship to draw the best lightweight wrestlers. The holder, Jack Brown, improbably tall for the weight and gaunt with hunger, had a gentle warm up when he met the much lighter Michael Kirkham of the Waberthwaite Academy. In the semi-final he met former champion Andrew Carlile who is one of his coaches and overwhelmed him with a back-heel at full tilt. In the final he met Waberthwaite's Andrew Woodend, a tough competitor, but too short to resist Jack Brown's hips and twists.

No-one deserves wrestling success more than Jack Brown of Haydaon Bridge. He must have travelled far more miles for training and competition than any other wrestler. His style is open and attacking, and he always acts with impeccable sportsmanship.

Andrew Carlile had seemed rusty in the championship, but he shone brightly in the 12 stones when he felled Jack Brown in the semi-final and a lively Craig Naylor in the final. Other Carlisle wrestlers Gemma Coulthard and Thomas Gibson were also winners, but no-one could overlook the role played by the Waberthwaite wrestlers. The wrestling throughout was sharp, skilled and closely matched. Time and again, three bouts were needed to decide the winner. One of the best wrestlers on show was Michael Kirkham who pushed Thomas Gibson all the way in the final of the Under 14s and then reversed the positions in winning the Under 16s.

In the All Weights a Waberthwaite wrestler, Scott Atkinson, had all his power short-circuited by a neat inside-click by Jack Brown for the first fall but he stuck to his task and took the next two falls.

At Allendale, Rothbury Academy provided most of the wrestlers, but John Harrington of Bewaldeth was unstoppable in the 11½ and 14 stones. Then he ran into the tall and powerful, Andrew Ord, who prevented a clean sweep by beating him in the final of the All Weights.

At Rusland, a lively session was sustained by the Kendal Academy wrestlers.

With Torver, Newcastleton, Millom and Broughton and Keswick all cancelled the Wrestling calendar is much reduced, but with twelve events still scheduled for the next week there will be plenty of action.

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

ALLEDALE SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under12 Years	H Bertram	S Reed	K Soanes.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	H Bertram	G Singer.
Under 18 Years	A Singer	J Bailey	C Bertram.
Girls	L Singer	T Bertram	
11½ Stone	J Harrington	A Singer	H Bertram
13 Stone	J Harrington	J Ewart	A Walton.
All Weights	A Ord	J Harrington	F Sewell.

GOSFORTH SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	G Coulthard	J Connor	J Gibson.
Under 12 Years	M Ratcliffe	G Coulthard	C Connor.
Under 14 Years	T Gibson	M Kirkham	R Robinson.
Under 16 Years	M Kirkham	T Gibson	T Harvey-Chadwick.
Ladies Open	L Murray	G Coulthard.	
10½ Stone World Championship	J Brown	Andrew Woodend	D Miller.
12 Stone	A Carlile	C Naylor	J Brown
All Weights	S Atkinson	J Brown	C Naylor

RUSLAND SPORTS .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	Jack Threlfall	R Albion	T Hodgson.
Under 15 Years	Joshua Threlfall	R Albion	T Hodgson.
Under 18 Years	B Brocklebank	Joshua Threlfall	J Fryer.
Girls	C Hodgson	M Pearson	L Clough
12½ Stone	A Myers	B Brocklebank	S Wilson.
All Weights	Joe Threlfall	S Fleming;	G Brocklebank.

## August 30<sup>th</sup> 2012

### AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Fri Aug. 31st** 6.30 - Rothbury U8yrs / U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / 9st / 11st / 13st / 15st / AW / Females U16yrs / AW

**Sat Sept. 1st** 3.00pm - Lowick U12yrs / U15 / U18 / 12½st / AW

**Sat Sept.1st** 2.00 - Harbottle Juniors / Novices / 12st / AW

**Sat Sept.1st** 3.15pm - Heskett New Market U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls / Novices / 12½st

**Sun Sept. 2nd** 3.30pm - Loweswater U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

**Sun Sept. 2nd** 1.45pm - Wolsingham U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11st / 12st / 14st / AW

**Sun Sept. 9th** 1.00pm - Stanhope U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 11½st / 13st / AW

**Sunday September 9th** 3.30pm - Whitfield - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Ladies / 12½st / AW

**Thursday September 13th** - 1.30pm - Westmorland Show - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Girls Open / U21yrs & 11st / 12st / 13st / **14st Championship** / AW

The Bank Holiday Weekend may not have satisfied those seeking sunburn, but for those who follow the unfolding drama of the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling season, all was bright and beautiful, even in the rain.

The Singer family from Rothbury played a big part in all the action at the four events of the last week. At Bellingham young Gus and big sister Lucy were in the prizemoney, and even bigger brother Archie won the Under 16 Years. Next day at Grasmere Sports, still the biggest of them all, Lucy and Archie won at Under 15 Years. Keeping in trim and sharp, Archie won again at Silloth on the Bank Holiday Monday. And then for him came the culmination of all this travelling and action when at Ennerdale Show, many miles from



home, he won the Under 15 Years World Championship.

The Brocklebank family, too, had much to celebrate, especially at Grasmere, where each of the three brothers, Ben (Under 18), Graham (13st) and Thomas (All Weights), won an event. All this peaked in the All Weights when Thomas and Graham met in the final, and Thomas prevailed. And what was the prize he received? .....The Wilf Brocklebank Cup given by the family in memory of his grandfather, the great heavyweight wrestler who flourished in the 1970s.

The Broclebanks are not great travellers, but on the Monday, Ben hitched a lift to Silloth in the Kendal battle-bus, in pursuit of the 11st World Championship to add to his Under 18s title. Much of the opposition in the championship came from the Bretons who were here in force again with a mixture of mature, proven wrestlers and young blood for the future. In the final of the championship Ben Brocklebank met one of Brittany's best, Ewan Salaun, whose lightning combinations of trips, and counters make him a formidable opponent. Brocklebank, however, with his height, strength, range of chips and above all, great confidence, cut through all that and proved a decisive winner.



At Grasmere honourable mention must go to three wrestlers from Carlisle Wrestling Club, Andrew Carlile, John Harrington, and Richard Fox, who won their weights again at Grasmere in fine style from a big entry. Best of all according to Peter Hayhurst, the Guinness Trophy judge of the best overall performance in the wrestling, was Connie Hodgson, the only wrestler to win two categories. She had to be favourite to win the Under 18s, but had to dig deep to win the open ladies event, too. Guess who Connie's cousins are.....the Brocklebank brothers.



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

### BELLINGHAM SHOW .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Bertram	A Storey	T Hodgson.
Under 16 Years	A Singer	C Carlyle	S Wilson
Novices	A Sandercock	A Singer	C Carlyle
Women's Open	C Hodgson	L Singer	T Bertram.
7 Stone	H Bertram	G Singer	A Storey
9 Stone	S Wilson	H Bertram	G Singer
12 Stone	J Brown	A Singer	T Gibson.
14 Stone	M Atkinson	A Sandercock	J Davidson
All Weights	A Ord	J Davidson	M Atkinson.

### GRASMERE SPORTS AND SHOW.....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Bertam	M Wharton	J Wales.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	S Wilson	J Lashley.
Girls Under 15 years	L Singer	E Wilson	G Coulthard
Under 18 Years	B Brocklebank	K Miller	J Belbning
Girls Under 18 Years	C Hodgson	M Gibson	E Wilson.
8 Stone	M Kirkham	T Wales	C Whitfield.
Women's 10 Stone	J le Bloas	D Wilson	E Wilson.
11 Stone	A Carlile	J Brown	D Miller.
12 Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	A Carlile.
13 Stone	R Fox	J Harrington	A Myers.
14 Stone	G Brocklebank	J Davidson	S Mason
All Weights	T Brocklebank	G Brocklebank	S Fleming
Women's All Weights	C Hodgson	D Thompson	K Jones.

### SILLOTH CARNIVAL .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	T Hodgson	G Singer.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	S Wilson;	G Wilson.
Girls Under 15 Years	D Wilson	E Wilson	R Hodgson.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	B Brocklebank	A Singer
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	H Hodgson	J le Bloas.
<b>11 Stone World Championship</b>	B Brocklebank	E Salaun	G Reid.
13 Stone	J Harrington	G Salaun	B Brocklebank.

Event	First	Second	Third
All Weights	I Villette	Y Passard	F Hirsch.
ENNERDALE SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	G Coulthard	W Addeyman
<b>Under 15 Years World Championship</b>	A Singer	J Lashley	S Wilson.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	J Addeyman	J Hayhurst.
Women's Open	J le Bloas	M Gibson	L Murray.
12½ Stone	G Salaun	E Salaun	J Brown.
All Weights	J Threlfall	J Ewart	F Hirsch.

## September 6<sup>th</sup> 2012

### 11 WRESTLING EVENTS IN 8 DAYS

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Thursday September 13th** - 1.30pm - Westmorland Show - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Girls Open / U21yrs & 11st / 12st / 13st / **14st Championship** / AW.

**Saturday Sept. 15th** - 2pm Egremont Crab Fair 2.00 U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 1 1½ st / **13st Championship** / AW

**Sunday Sept 16th** - 2.15pm Borrowdale U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 11½ st / 13 st / AW.



I am dizzy with wrestling, or at least with watching it.

From Bellingham to Wolsingham eight days elapsed with eleven highly successful wrestling events:

Here is a sample: Crosby Ravensworth in the mud; James Hayhurst cruises through the youth events, and Stuart Mason of Milnthorpe, a rare competitor these days won twice.

Grayrigg in the evening sunshine with two young Bretons, Mael Cambot and Florian Perret winning the 9 stones ahead of the local star Sam Wilson. Another Breton, Gurban Salaun, won the 13stones, while John Harrington won his second weight of the day. Joe Threlfall picked himself up from a surprise failure at Crosby Ravensworth to win the All Weights from the local hero, Joseph Robson.

Rothbury Mart hosted an exceptional night of wrestling intensity and drama, helped by £1800 in prizemoney and the crowded tiers of spectators round the old mart ring safely clothed with wrestling mats and bales of straw. Two Breton brothers showed their class in contesting the 11st final. Jason Davidson raised the roof when he attacked Joe Threlfall in the All Weights final, but Threlfall weathered the storm. Best of all was Jack Brown when he won the final fall of the 13stones with a remarkable counter with his long legs widespread and stiff inches above the mats as he twisted to win.



At Heskett Newmarket the youngsters ruled as they poured into the ring to compete. Carlisle Wrestling Club's reputation for bringing out well honed youngsters was seen in the skills of Mark Wharton and Kieran Miller.

Twenty-three entries for the Under 12 Years at Loweswater Show speaks for itself. And Adrian Myers from Langdale glowed in his success at 12 ½ stones.

Finally, at Wolsingham the United Nations had a meeting.... in the wrestling ring: Bretons, Icelanders, Scots and the English all added to the wrestling fun. Congratulations to Peter Eythorsson who flew in from Iceland for a wrestling weekend, and won the 14 stones.

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

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	Jacob Threlfall	J Gibson	T Hodgson.
Under 13 Years	J Lashley	Jack Threlfall	J Wilson
Under 16 Years	J Hayhurst	J Bellamy	G Wilson
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	F Barnet	A Singer
Girls	C Hodgson	J le Bloas	
13 Stone	S Mason	J Harrington	G Reid
All Weights	S Mason	I Vilette	F Sewell.

GRAYRIGG .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 10 Years	T Hodgson	A Harker	Jacob Threlfall
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	J. Harker	J Gibson.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	J Lashley	G Wilson.
Girls U 15 Years	E Wilson	N Guy	A Harker.
U 18 Years	M Atkinson	B Brocklebank	J Brown
Ladies	C Hodgson	J. le Bloas	K Brown..
9 Stone	M Cambot	F Perret	S Wilson.
11½ Stone	J Harrington	E Salaun	G Salaun
13 Stone	G Salaun	B Brocklebank	S Mason
All Weights	J Threlfall	J Robson	S Mason.

ROTHBURY MART .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	M Bates	Jacob Threlfall	R Hodgson
Under 10 Years	G Singer	T Hodgson	Jack Threlfall
Under 13 Years	G Wilson	A Storey	J Gibson.
Under 16 Years	J Hayhurst	J Bellamy	S Wilson.
Girls U 16 Years	L Singer	S Gwily	T Bertram.
Under 21 Years	J hale	J Brown	J Hayhurst.
9 Stone	M Cambot	Joe Hale	S Wilson.
11 Stone	G Salaun	E Salaun	J Brown
13 Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	J Harrington.
15 Stone	A Ord	J Hale	D Barnes
Ladies Open	C Hodgson	J le Bloas	
All Weights	J Threlfall	J Davidson	A Ord
Best Performance U 21 Years	J Hayhurst		
Best Performance Overall	J Brown		

### HESKET NEWMARKET .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	J Wales	G Coulthard
Under 15 Years	L Lister	T Wales	C Gwalkin.
Under 18 Years	K Miller	L Lister	P Potts.
Girls	J Williamson	K Harrison	G Coulthard.
Novices	T Fletcher	J Thorneycroft	S Coburn
12 Stone	Harrington	P Potts	S Coburn.

### WOLSINGHAM .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Singer	T Hodgson	B Barnes.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	G Wilson	S Wilson.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	B Brocklebank	A Singer
Ladies	C Hodgson	J le Bloas	E Raine.
11 Stone	J Brown	M Cambot	L Loxq.
12 Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	G Reid.
14 Stone	P Eythorsson	J Harrington	F Hirsch
All Weights	Ord	P Eythorsson	J Hale.

### LOWESWATER .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	M Astley	K Armstrong	C Wharton
Under 12 Years	A Watson	J Green	H Wharton.
Under 15 Years	T Hodgkinson-Webb	A Price	K White.
Under 18 Years	Farmer	L Grove	J Welford.
Girls	H Wharton	J Wharton	
12½ Stone	A Myers	P Barnes	P Murray.
All Weights	J Wharton	C Farmer	A Myers.

## September 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

### JACK BROWN WINS 5 EVENTS

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Thursday September 13th** - 1.30pm - Westmorland Show - U12yrs / U15 / U18 / Girls U15 / Girls Open / U21yrs & 11st / 12st / 13st / **14st Championship** / AW.

**Saturday Sept. 15th** - 2pm Egremont Crab Fair 2.00 U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 1 1½ st / **13st Championship** / AW

**Sunday Sept 16th** - 2.15pm Borrowdale U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 11½ st / 13 st / AW

**Saturday Sept. 22nd** - 1200 Noon Langholm Show U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / Novices / 12 ½ st / **AW Championship**

After the superabundance of wrestling in the previous fortnight, wrestlers and supporters settled down to a less frenetic week, with only one day of competition. That was divided between the shows at Stanhope in Weardale and Whitfield in the South Tyne Valley, two events reasonably close together which complement each other.

Heavyweight Champion Andrew Ord could set out on his travels with more than a single chance to shine, and shine he did. He made the most of his height, strength and experience to control the cunning wiles of John Harrington in the All Weights final at Stanhope and the long legs and growing confidence of Jack Brown in the final at Whitfield.



Jack Brown had the most successful day because he still qualifies to compete in the Under 18s, is a prime contender at lightweight and can hold his own amongst heavier wrestlers. At Stanhope he inevitably won the Under 18s, and then went on to hipe and back-heel his way to win at 11½ and 13 stones. And then at Whitfield he took the under 18s and the 12½ stones.

The Ladies wrestling at the two shows had an extra frisson for two of the best female wrestlers were locked in battle. After much circling round the ring at Stanhope, Connie Hodgson felled Donna Thompson. Twenty miles and a couple of an hours later it was Donna who gained the victory at Whitfield.



The Singer family had a good day at the twin events, with young Gus winning at Under 12s, and then wrestling up to big brother Archie in the under 15s at Stanhope. At Whitfield Archie, the Under 15 Years Champion, duly won his main event and then went on to feature in two more finals.

A feature of both events is the role played by wrestlers from the crowd, strong lads who fancy a challenge and push the trained wrestlers to the limits. At Stanhope Jake Daley in the boys and Jimmy Atkinson at the heavier end both gained falls before losing out to the skills of the trained wrestlers. We always encourage people like this to try the sport further at the nearest academy but when they live at Spennymoor and Crook that is unrealistic. The academy in Weardale died more than fifty years ago, and the distance from Crook to Rothbury is about fifty miles and to Carlisle Wrestling Club it is even further.

Last week I received an intriguing email from David Ellison, who is building up a portfolio of photographs of our wrestling: "On Monday 17th September at 8pm at Pakhuis de Zwijger in Amsterdam, I'll be making an appearance as Richard Dixon, a talented Cumberland and Westmorland wrestler from Wigton, West Cumbria as part of Unseen Photo Fair 2012. I'll be pitching my latest project in three minutes - dressed in costume embroidered in the traditional style by the wrestler's mother - to an audience of approximately 300 people who've paid a five euro entrance fee. If you're in Amsterdam or you've friends who like to fund promising talented photographers, please encourage them to support my bid for funding."

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

STANHOPE SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	G Singer	T Hodgson	L Harker.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	A Storey	T Gibson.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	A Singer	J Daley.
Ladies	C Hodgson	D Thompson	R Hodgson
11½ Stone	J Brown	2, A Singer	J Daley.
13 Stone	J Brown	A Sandercock	J Harrington
All Weights	A Ord	J Harrington	J Atkinson.
WHITFIELD .....			

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	S Reid	G Singer	T Hodgson.
Under 15 Years	A Singer	G Singer	T Gibson.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	A Singer	T Gibson.
Ladies	D Thompson	R Story	C Hodgson.
12½ Stone	J Brown	A Singer	J Harrington.
All Weights	A Ord	J Brown	J Harrington.

## September 21<sup>st</sup> 2012

### 13 AND 14 STONE CHAMPIONSHIPS DECIDED

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Saturday Sept. 22nd** - 1200 Noon Langholm Show U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / Novices / 12 ½ st / **AW Championship**

Although we are now past the busiest part of the season there are still wrestling championships to be fought for.

Last week saw the 13 and 14 stone Championships decided and in the next week the All Weights and the 12 Stones titles will be settled, - as long as the weather does not intervene.

At the Westmorland Show last Thursday, the highlight was the 14 stones Championship. This had originally been allocated to Skelton Show in early July, but when that was washed out a new venue was needed and Westmorland Show stepped into the breach. Despite the rain we enjoyed a full afternoon's wrestling with a surprise Championship winner in David Parsons of Levens.

The son of a farmer, and an agricultural mechanic by trade, Parsons found himself up against many people's favourite Graham Brocklebank in the final. In the semi-final Brocklebank had an outstanding battle with the defending Champion Richard Fox with both going on all out attack. Fox struck first with a full buttock before Brocklebank equalised with a drive off the right side to smother the attempted leg up, and then took the decider with a twist off the right side.

In the final, the first fall went the way of Parsons when, although turned in, he managed to strike with a cross click at the right time. The second fall went more to script with Brocklebank turning his man in and twisting him back.

The deciding fall seemed to be going the same way until Parsons again struck with the cross click to become the new Champion. This is his first title and he admitted afterwards he was as surprised as anyone that he had won. That win was all the sweeter because it was at his local show.

On Saturday, at Egremont Crab Fair, it was the 13 stone title that was up for grabs and again there was a surprise in the final. Two Kendal Academy wrestlers Graham Brocklebank and James Hayhurst had come through against some stiff opposition.

Brocklebank had another epic semi-final with Richard Fox, again coming back from a fall down to progress to the final, while Hayhurst had accounted for the lightweight champion Jack Brown.

In the final it was Hayhurst who struck first with a buttock. Back came Brocklebank to get the equaliser by stopping the buttock and turning his man back.

At one fall each, most would have favoured Brocklebank to come through, especially as he had his man turned in and on his right hip, but just like two days earlier he was outdone as Hayhurst played the inside click to win the decisive third fall.

This was an outstanding performance by a gifted wrestler who, as he is only fifteen, still has two years left in junior wrestling. Last year he had created a stir in winning the twelve stone Championship, but I think this is a bigger achievement and one of which he can be exceedingly proud. For his exploits he was voted a worthy winner of the Guinness Trophy for the best performance in the whole of the wrestling

Commiserations to Graham Brocklebank, whose day ended in further disappointment when losing the All Weights final to Richard Fox. Like the outstanding wrestler he is, he will bounce back from these disappointments.

This week attention turns to Langholm Show who are hosting the All weights Championship while next week Eskdale in West Cumbria has the 12 stones Championship. As the season enters its final phase there is still time for plenty more drama.

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

WESTMORLAND SHOW .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 9 Years	G Singer	J Gibson	T Hodgson.
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	T Hayhurst	,J Harker
Under 15 Years	A Singer	J Lashley	T Gibson.
Under 18 Years	J Hayhurst	D Hodgson	J Brown.
Girls Under 15 Years	L Singer	A Marston	A Harker.
Girls Open	C Hodgson	V Beaty	H Hodgson.
Under 21 Years and 11 Stone	J Brown	S Wilson	A Singer.
12 Stone	J Harrington	B Brocklebank	C Naylor.
13 Stone	G Brocklebank	M Atkinson	R Fox.
<b>14 Stone World Championship</b>	D Parsons	G Brocklebank	R Fox
All Weights	T Brocklebank	J Threlfall	T Hodgson
Junior Costume	J Wilson	O Wilson	A Marston.
Senior Costume	T Hodgson	R Fox	J Harrington.
Junior Best Performance	James Hayhurst		
Senior Best Performance	John Harrington		

#### EGREMONT .....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	B Caine	T Hayhurst.	
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	J Crone	L Doran
Under 18 Years	B Brocklebank	J Hayhurst	J Brown.
11½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	T Gibson.
<b>13 Stone World Championship</b>	J Hayhurst	G Brocklebank	R Fox.
All Weights	R Fox	G Brocklebank	J Ewart.
Guinness Trophy	J Hayhurst		

#### BORROWDALE.....

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	H Wilson	O Wilson	T Wilson.
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	G Wilson	J Wilson.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	G Wilson	T Gibson
Girls	D Wilson	E Wilson	O Wilson.
11½ Stone	J Brown	T Gibson	J Wilson.
13 Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	A Myers.
All Weights	J Ewart	J Harrington	J Brown.
Costume	J Brown	O Wilson	J Gibson.

**September 27<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**ANDREW ORD RETAINS THE ALL WEIGHTS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AT LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING**

#### NEWS UPDATE

DATES:

**Saturday September 29th** - 3pm - Eskdale Show - U15 / U18 / 10½ / **12st World Championship** / AW

**Wednesday October 4th** - 7.45pm - Carlisle Wrestling Club - AGM at Currock House, Carlisle

**Saturday Oct 13th** - Alwinton - 1pm - U10 / U13 / U16 / U21 / 11½ / 14 / AW

**Saturday Oct 13th** - Wasdale Head - 4pm - U11 / U12 / U13 / U15 / U18 / 10½ / 12 / AW

**Saturday Oct 27th** - Buttermere Show - TBA



Andrew Ord's long legs stand astride our wrestling world, again, after he retained the All Weights World Championship for Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling for a second year, at Langholm Show.

Wrestlers, young and oldish, gathered from Northumberland, Cumbria and Lancashire to compete in Scotland. Two of the most experienced and weighty wrestlers, Joe Threlfall of Preston and Darren Whitfield of Rothbury, both former Heavyweight Champions, met in the second round. Threlfall had won the championship 29 years previously on the same field at the Common Riding, and he showed that he is still a force to be reckoned with in the here and now when he won two long careful bouts, finishing with a twist off the chest.



In the semi-final he met Richard Fox in his most determined and bustling mood. Fox negated the weight difference between them by constant action so he stayed ahead of Threlfall's twists, except in the middle fall when Threlfall twisted him off the back-heel. Unable to use the buttock against the stronger man, Fox persevered with back heels,



and Threlfall lost his footing twice.

The other semi-final brought together two well-matched wrestlers, who had never met before in the ring. Joseph Robson of Grayrigg tried to buttock Andrew Ord but was hauled onto his back instead. The second fall showed Ord at his best, standing up close to Robson and sending him horizontal with an outside hipe.

This brought up a finely balanced final between the controlled wrestling of Andrew Ord and the swashbuckling attacking style of Richard Fox. In the first fall Ord merely survived back-heels and the buttock until he saw his chance and smothered Fox to the ground. The second fall began in the same way, but this time Fox's buttock connected and brought Ord over and down. In the third bout, Fox tried all ways to back-heel, left and right, and kept Ord from hiping. Instead, when Ord found a chance, he used his own right leg back-heel, and retained his championship.

Andrew Ord, in his early twenties, is a gentle giant, deceptively strong and skilled. From a farming family near Morpeth, he actually makes a living crafting high value, highest quality furniture.

The skill factor was strong in every single category at Langholm: Mark Wharton had to be clever to beat the taller Gemma Coulthard



in the Under 12s.

Sam Wilson collapsed the strong local lad, William Jannah, with two sneaky inside-clicks. The prize-winners in the Under 18s, headed by Jack Brown, hold five championship titles between them; and John Harrington continued his tightening up process with the younger challengers as we move towards the 12st Championship at Eskdale Show on Saturday.

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

LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	T Davidson
Under 15 Years	S Wilson	W Jammah	T Gibson
Under 18 Years	J Brown	B Brocklebank	J Hayhurst.
Novices	A Sandercock	K Taylor	G Irving
Ladies	C Hodgson	A Marston	G Coulthard
12½ Stone	J Harrington	J Brown	B Brocklebank
All Weights World Championship	A Ord	R Fox	J Threlfall

## October 5<sup>th</sup> 2012

### FOUR ACES.....AND A FEW CLUBS

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday Oct 13th** - Alwinton - Cancelled

**Saturday Oct 13th** - Wasdale Head - 4pm - U11 / U12 / U13 / U15 / U18 / 10½st / 12 / AW

**Wednesday Oct 17th** 7.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club opening night at Currock House Gym

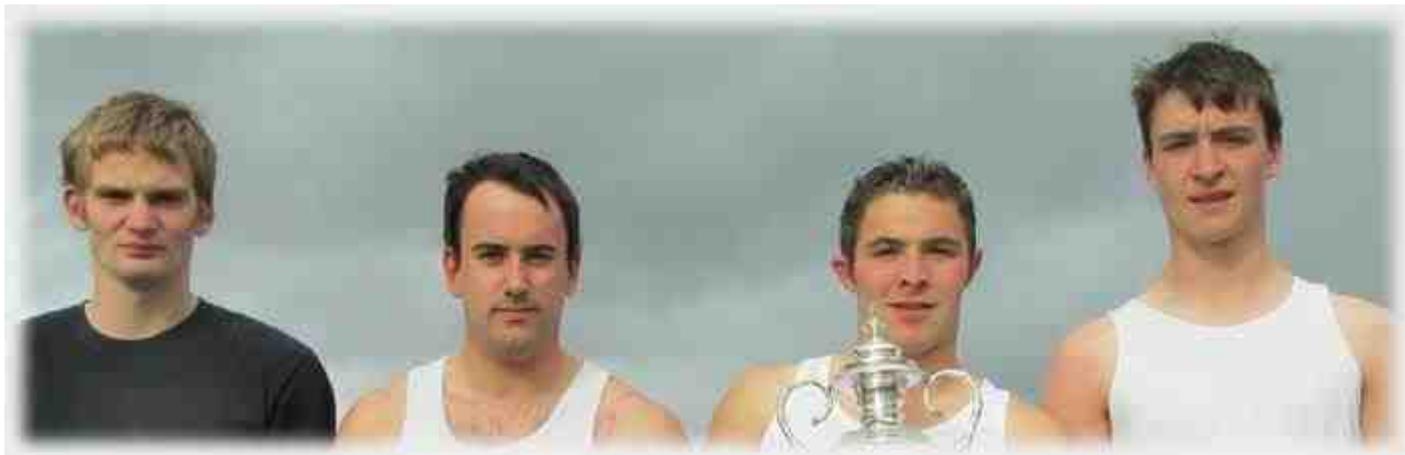
**Saturday Oct 27th** - Buttermere Show - TBA

**Friday November 9th** - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner, Low Hesket Hall. Tickets from [Alf Harrington](#)

John Harrington has had a tough season. The younger wrestlers breaking into the senior wrestling, the likes of James Hayhurst, Ben Brocklebank, the Atkinson brothers, and Jack Brown, have been hard opposition as they added height and strength to the long cultivated skills they acquired as small boys on the mats at Kendal and Carlisle. At Eskdale Show, the venue for the 12st World Championship, he did not have to worry about the holder of the trophy, James Hayhurst, for he was too heavy this year, but two of his main adversaries this, Ben Brocklebank and Jack Brown, both Senior champions already, were ready for action.

John Harrington met Brocklebank in the first round and showed how he was fully determined to win, never allowing Brocklebank the room to hipe or buttock. Fittingly, in the final he met Jack Brown who has been in prolific form recently and had just won the under 18 Years class, beating 13st Champion, James Hayhurst on the way. The first bout was over quickly as Harrington went straight for his favoured outside hipe and in a single move got rid of Brown's long legs by sending them flying sideways. The second hold produced an unexpected reversal, as Harrington looked to be successfully buttocking Brown, but Brown defended by stiffening himself at full length and Harrington's knee touched the sward first.

The decider was tense, and suddenly exploded into action. Harrington went for hold and lifted, forcing Brown to clamp on a defensive hank. Without hesitation, Harrington dropped Brown forcefully to the ground before he could get his landing-gear into action.



John Harrington, who farms at Rigg Wood, Bewaldeth, has had his successes this year, especially at Grasmere and amongst the Bretons, but this championship was important to him. A year ago at Buttermere he was surprisingly beaten in the final by James Hayhurst, so it must have been additionally sweet for him to meet Hayhurst in the Eskdale All Weights final, and beat him in a tough match to achieve a double win.

The young Waberthwaite Academy wrestlers, in their blue tee-shirts, added greatly to the sport but were restricted to the minor places.

Still the weather continues to deplete our wrestling season. Two weeks before the event Alwinton Show has had to cancel, mainly because of waterlogged car-parking fields. I have attended Alwinton on 65 occasions. Nil desperandum, at last I can go to Wasdale Head Show which is always scheduled for the same day

Wrestlers and supporters will be shocked to hear of the death of John Dennison of Ulverston, champion wrestler and pre-eminent breeder of dairy cattle.

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

ESKDALE SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 15 Years	S Wilson	R Robinson	C Connor
Under 18 Years	J Brown	T Johnson	J Hayhurst.
10½ Stone	A Carlile	S Wilson	D Connor
<b>12 Stone World Championship</b>	J Harrington	J Brown	C Naylor
All Weights	J Harrington	J Hayhurst	A Carlile

## October 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

### JOHN DENNISON - OBITUARY

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday Oct 13th** - Alwinton - Cancelled

**Saturday Oct 13th** - Wasdale Head - 4pm - U11 / U12 / U13 / U15 / U18 / 10½st / 12st / AW

**Wednesday Oct 17th** 7.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club opening night at Currock House Gym

**Saturday Oct 27th** - Buttermere Show - U12 /U15 / U18 / Girls / 12½st / AW

**Friday November 9th** - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner, Low Hesket Hall. Tickets £15, Juniors £10 - from **Aif Harrington**



John Dennison, a great Cumberland and Westmorland style champion wrestler of the 1960s and 70s, has died suddenly while on holiday in Portugal. Only weeks before he had been chatting and organising in his usual role as Wrestling Manager of the Westmorland Show.

Originally from Crook, he and his brothers, Edward, Bruce and Frank, had learned their wrestling amongst the elite families at Kendal Academy, the Hayhursts and the Blands. Albert, his father, was a Governing Board member who believed that all Board men should force their sons to wrestle.

All his sons were good wrestlers, but John was exceptional, and he won his first world championship, the Under 18s, at Hethersgill in 1962, closely followed by the 10½ stones the following year when he felled Geoff Wilson of Lamonby in the final at Ambleside.

In 1964 he continued his progress by winning the 12st Championship at Egremont Crab Fair. However, his main successes came in the lightweights for he was a tall, lean figure who always wrestled at around 11 stones. Jim Bland remembers him as a wrestler with



lots of chips, a good chest, and particularly good with the outside-stroke and inside-click.

Parallel with his success in the ring, he was also single-mindedly building up his farming career, beginning with the tenancy of a forty-acre council farm near Broughton. This meant that he did not travel so much to compete, but focused on the big events, Ambleside, Grasmere and the championships. After a comparative lull, he flourished in the early seventies. 1971 was a good year when he won the 11 stones at Grasmere and the championship trophy at Ambleside. His final opponent at both venues was his great rival Billy Bland. In 1975 he repeated the heroics of 1971, when he won the 11 stones at Grasmere, took second place in the 12 stones too, and then at his local Millom and Broughton Show regained the 11st World Championship beating Tom Harrington in the final.

Dairy farming then took over his ambitions and, with the same concentration that he had shown in his wrestling, he built his herd and his farming up until he was a pre-eminent breeder of Holstein cattle. The Denmire Herd has 400 cows milking three times a day, on over a thousand acres of land, and supplying seventy bulls a year for dairy farmers.

Whether wrestling or farming, with all his success, he always remained a quiet, unassuming, cheerful man, still waters running deep. He leaves Margaret, his wife and three sons Michael, Andrew and Stephen.

The cancellation of this year's Alwinton Show means that I shall at last be able to attend Wasdale Head Show which always clashed with the Northumbrian event. I have attended Alwinton sixty-five times since the Second World War; perhaps it is time for a change.

On Wednesday evening I shall be at Currock House, Carlisle for the opening session of Carlisle Wrestling Club.

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

WASDALE HEAD SHOW .....			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 11 Years			
Under 12 Years			
Under 13 Years			
Under 15 Years			
Under 18 Years			
10½ Stone			
12 Stone			
All Weights			

## October 25<sup>th</sup> 2012

- fact
- MAPS & Directions
  - Allendale Show
  - Alwinton Show
- Ambleside Sports Field
  - Beetham Sports
  - Bellingham Show
  - Borrowdale Show
  - Buttermere Show
  - Cockermouth Show
  - Coniston Show
- Crosby Ravensworth Show
  - Cumberland Show
  - Dalston Show
  - Egremont Sports
  - Ennerdale Show
  - Eskdale Show
- Farleton Knott Fell Race
  - Flookburgh Rally
  - Forestburngate
- Gilsland Agricultural Show
  - Gosforth Show
  - Grasmere Sports
- Great Ecclestone Show
  - Harbottle Show
- Hesket Newmarket Show -
  - Keswick Show
  - Killington Sports
  - Kirkheaton Show

- [Langdale Gala](#)
- [Langholm Common Riding](#)
  - [Langholm Show](#)
  - [Loveswater Show](#)
  - [Lowgill Sports](#)
  - [Lowick Show](#)
- [Lunesdale Show \(Kirkby Lonsdale\)](#)
- [Millom and Broughton Sports](#)
  - [Newcastleton Show](#)
  - [Patterdale Show](#)
  - [North Lonsdale Show](#)
    - [Penrith Show](#)
    - [Powburn Show](#)
    - [Roman Wall Show](#)
  - [Rothbury Vintage Rally](#)
    - [Rusland Sports](#)
    - [Silloth Show](#)
    - [Skelton Show](#)
    - [Stanhope Show](#)
    - [Wasdale Head Show](#)
- [Westmorland County Show](#)
  - [Whalton Show](#)
  - [Whitfield Show](#)
  - [Wolsingham Show](#)
- [How to use](#)

## THE OUTDOOR WRESTLING SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Saturday Oct 27th - [Buttermere Show](#) - U12 / U15 / U18 / Girls / 12½st / AW**

**Friday November 9th - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner, Low Hesket Hall. Tickets £15, Juniors £10 - from [Alf Harrington](#)**

Tomorrow, Winter arrives. Wrestling's final fling of the 2012 Grass Season will take place on a sunny mountainside in West Cumbria at Buttermere Show. Then the clocks go back.

The main focus of wrestling now changes as the action comes indoors for training, competition and celebration.

For training we have five wrestling academies in Cumbria and Northumberland already in action. If a wrestler wished, and had enough petrol, he could train on the mats on four nights of the week in different clubs.

Monday is [Waberthwaite \(7pm – 8.30\)](#) where Tom Porter ploughs a lone furrow in West Cumbria at the village hall. He has lost several regulars to that bane of wrestling, education. In addition his qualified helpers are working away from home at present, but he remains committed and has some keen families of wrestlers turning out regularly.

Wednesday is a choice between [Rothbury](#) and [Carlisle](#). The Northumbrian Club has an early start for youngsters under 10 at 6.30 in the Dr Thomlinson School. After an hour the older youths and men take over under the tutelage of Darren Whitfield and Jason Davidson. A good new wrestler picked up during the season, Andrew Sandercock has been travelling from Newcastle to have his natural talents honed by training.

Carlisle Wrestling Club meets in the Gym at Currock House each Wednesday at 7.30 for youngsters and 8.30 for older wrestlers. The coaching team of Andrew Carlile, Tom Harrington and Alan Jones not only have scores of championship wins between them but they have the patience and skill to bring the best out of anyone who comes onto the mats.

Thursday is [Milnthorpe Academy's](#) day, when David Parsons opens the doors of Dallam Junior Football Pavilion for training at 6.45. Although sometimes restricted by work commitments, Joe Threlfall regularly brings a car-load from Preston and weighs in to help with the coaching.

[Kendal Academy](#) on Friday nights has been feeling the economic pinch. They have lots of new wrestlers, enthusiastic coaches and money in the bank, but the South Lakes Leisure Centre, where they meet at 8pm, has begun closing early to save money. The result has been that all activities taking place earlier in the day are unaffected, but the last session finishes at 9pm. Kendal at present has to pile onto the mats for a hectic hour of mixed age wrestling before the lights go out.

Apart from internal club competitions there are two big wrestling events in the next month. The Scottish Wrestling Bond holds its Under 21s Backhold Wrestling Championships at [Possilpoint Community Centre](#) on Sunday 11th November. Also included in the programme are five senior championships which were unable to be held during the wet summer.

Our own Academy Shield will be at Rothbury on 24th November, when our academies come together for the biggest and keenest competition of the indoor season.

Celebration of the 2012 season comes with two presentation dinners: the Wrestling Association Dinner on the 9th November, when our most prolific and regular winners are rewarded; and the Lakeland Sports Promoters presentation luncheon on 25th November



Another champion of the post-War era has died suddenly at the age of 79. Stan Roberts of Eskdale and Drigg was a phenomenon when in 1948 he won the Under 15 Years Championship, then went on in successive years to win the Under 18 Years Championship three times. He was as Henry Hail said "a big lad". As a senior he also made his mark, winning the 14st Championship twice in 1955 and 1956.

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

### CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB POINTS NIGHT

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	A. Carlile	J. Brown	T. Gibson	
13 Stone	A. Carlile	J. Brown	T. Gibson	
All Weights	R. Fox	J. Ewart	A. Carlile	J. Brown

## November 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

### GLORIOUS BUTTERMERE

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**Friday November 9th** - Wrestling Association Presentation Dinner, Low Hesket Hall. Tickets £15, Juniors £10 - from **Alf Harrington** (ASAP)

**Sunday, 11th November** - Scottish Wrestling Bond Under 21 years Scottish Open Championships in Possilpoint Community Centre 130 Denmark Street, Possilpark, Glasgow G22 5LQ .....

**Weigh-in 9am to 10am -**

**Under 14 yrs Male** - 5½st / 6½st / 7½st / 8½st / 10½st / Open.

**Under 14 yrs Female** - 5½st / 6½st / 7½st / 8½st / 10½st / Open.

**Under 21's Male** - 8½st / 10½st / 12½st / Open.

**Under 21's Female** - 8½st / 10½st / 12½st / Open.

**British championships** at 12½st / 13½st.

**Scottish Championships** at 11½st / AW (weigh-in 10 – 12noon).



Many years ago I wrote in this column that the sun always shone at Alwinton Show. That was the year when there was so much rain that the wrestling was scrapped. Last week I promised the last wrestling of the season *"will take place on a sunny mountainside in West Cumbria at Buttermere Show"*; and it did.

But on a glorious day in a glorious place, with the biggest wrestling ring of the season waiting, where were the wrestlers? Then, slowly a little crowd focused round the car window where the entries were being taken; the local lads were keen to compete. In the end there were only two recognised wrestlers, John Harrington and far-travelled Jack Brown, but the locals made up for that, and put on a grand show.

The main event, though, was the series of bouts between Harrington and Brown, the two most successful middleweights of the season: Harrington the 12<sup>st</sup> champion; Brown the 10½<sup>st</sup> champion; both with major wins at the likes of Ambleside, Grasmere and the Westmorland Show, and both with serious petrol bills for the season.



Jack Brown had warmed up with a win in the Under 18 Years, and went on the offensive against Harrington in the final of the 12½ stones. After some tough sparring for an advantage, Brown suddenly lunged and swung with a hipe and finished with a twist. In the second bout Harrington turned in and got a headlock on Brown's head keeping him low to the ground and unable to lift his man. Yet, still Brown managed to get his long right leg in front to rush Harrington forward to the grass.

Inevitably there was a re-run of their encounter in the All Weights, for though the local opposition was strong and enthusiastic, there was no-one to fell them. Their second final of the day was epic in its intensity and took four holds to secure a result. For the first Harrington made a strong attempt with a hipe but Brown rode it, jumped ahead and on landing struck with a buttock. The closeness of their wrestling was reinforced by a dog-fall next when they hit the ground in a muddle and set the judges wondering. Then Harrington equalised efficiently with hold and a back-over hipe. And then it was all over, both the final and the season, and Jack Brown was the winner.

Even though the wrestling focus was on the main men, the contribution of the local wrestlers, one at least still wearing the waterproof leggings from handling Herdwicks, cannot be overlooked; Rhys Cawood, Alex Bland, Pollyanna Bell, Jason Loan and the father and son duo of Russel and Josh Blackhurst all stirred the crowd and gave a good account of themselves.

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

BUTTERMERE SHOW			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 13 Years	J Blackhurst	P Bell	A Bland.
Under 15 Years	C White	J Blackhurst	A Bland.
Under 18 Years	J Brown	J Loan	R Cawood.
12½ Stone	J Brown	J Harrington	R Cawood.

Event	First	Second	Third
All Weights	J Brown	J Harrington	R Blackhurst.

## November 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

### THE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

Sunday, 11th November - Scottish Wrestling Bond Under 21 years Scottish Open Championships in Possilpoint Community Centre 130 Denmark Street, Possilpark, Glasgow G22 5LQ .....

**Weigh-in 9am to 10am -**

**Under 14 yrs Male** - 5½st / 6½st / 7½st / 8½st / 10½st / Open.

**Under 14 yrs Female** - 5½st / 6½st / 7½st / 8½st / 10½st / Open.

**Under 21's Male** - 8½st / 10½st / 12½st / Open.

**Under 21's Female** - 8½st / 10½st / 12½st / Open.

**British Championships** at 12½st / 13½st.

**Scottish Championships** at 11½st / AW (weigh-in 10 – 12noon).

**The Academy Shield** - will be held on Saturday, 24th November 2012, at Dr Thomlinson's Middle School, Silvertown Lane, Rothbury, NE65 7RJ



Ten wrestling events were cancelled in 2012 because of the weather. In the past five years 34 wrestling events could not take place because of mired car parks and wrecked showfields. In an odd-ball way, our own statistics are part of the global warming scenario. Add in the almost total wipe-out of the 2001 season in the year of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and we find ourselves enduring sustained difficulties year by year to keep our traditional sport in front of the public.



Cancellations cause money shortages both for the Agricultural Shows and for our sport. This year £1.4m was spent on wrestling for the Olympics to fund a single competitor, Olga Butkevych, an Ukrainian till just before the event, who went out in the first round. Our ten cancelled events cost us £200 of affiliation fees, and in our self sustained world that means an important shortfall.

Luckily, various initiatives keep our finances healthy. Board member Chris Bland created a fifty question quiz on Cumbria which was sold round the wrestling rings to raise funds in excess of £1000. Each year Carlisle Wrestling Club hosts a slide show of the season's events and hands over £250. But most importantly all our officials are genuine amateurs who travel far and wide for the love of the sport leaving the funds to pay for the essentials: insurance and efficient administration.

A bigger problem is the dwindling numbers of wrestlers. At the CWWA Governing Board meeting last week measures were discussed to heighten the profile of the sport in the North. One early decision was to mount a poster campaign in schools and on community notice boards. Then some strange words were uttered for the first time in a Board meeting: "Facebook", "Twitter", "Database".

Darren Whitfield explained how the Rothbury Wrestling Club used the internet in the form of facebook to communicate with their members. All the youngsters have their smart phones, and are in constant communication with each other. The club's site is not open to all, is well supervised by an adult, and allows all the interaction and visual stimulus associated with the web. Details of how to set about creating a club site is being circulated to the other academies.

A database for Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling will be set up to draw together all the information that is held by the academies and the Governing Board. Simple matters such as wrestlers' birth dates would be immediately accessible, but also renewal dates for coaching and child protection qualifications.

The Wrestling association already has an excellent web-site as a focus of information and record, but more and more, the other tools of the internet are becoming a normal part of our traditional world.

## November 15<sup>th</sup> 2012

### VICTORS LUDORUM PRESENTATION DINNER

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Wednesday - November 21st** at 8.30pm Carlisle Wrestling Club Senior Points at Currock House.

**The Academy Shield** - will be held on Saturday, 24th November 2012, at Dr Thomlinson's Middle School, Silverton Lane, Rothbury, NE65 7RJ.



Wrestlers and supporters made Low Hesket Village Hall the centre of their world for the Presentation Dinner which awards Victor Ludorum trophies for the wrestlers who score most points throughout the long outdoor season. The first points are won at Carlisle Airport in early May at the Hethersgill Vintage Rally; and the last points are accrued on a field by a mountain at Buttermere Show in late October.

There should have been 56 events contributing, in Lancashire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria and the Borders of Scotland, but ten of those were cancelled because of weather conditions.

Amazingly, the winner of the Middleweight trophy was only decided at that final venue, Buttermere Show. With three points for a win, two for second and one for third, two wrestlers were separated by a single point when they arrived at Buttermere to compete: John Harrington was ahead with 44 points and Jack Brown was on 43 points. To win the Victor Ludorum trophy, Brown had to finish two places ahead of Harrington.

He felled him, but in the final, so they were tied on 46 points. In such a case the total wins are then taken into account, and Harrington prevailed as he had ten wins to Jack Brown's nine. Harrington only opened his middleweight account in late August at Ambleside Sports so the later part of the season was an important time for him, winning at Grasmere and gaining the 12st title at Eskdale on the last Saturday of September.

Although Jack Brown took second place in the Middleweights, he had a magnificent season, and won the Lightweight Trophy and the Under 18 Years Trophy too.. The lightweights were clear-cut, helped by a double win at Ambleside, but the Under 18s threw up another close rivalry with a wrestler who matched him every step of the way. Ben Brocklebank is as tall, long-legged and skilful as Jack Brown and at times he upstaged the Northumbrian, particularly in winning the Under 18 Championship at Alston and the 11st Championship at Silloth. They were neck-and-neck in the points race until Silloth but then Brown began to ease ahead until the final tally was Brown on 51 points to Brocklebank's 45 points.

The Under 15 trophy went to Sam Wilson of Kendal. He was significantly behind the fifteen wins of the Under 15 Champion, Archie



Singer, but his skill levels and mileage accumulated 50 points to put him ahead. Another Wilson, Sam's cousin Harold, won the Under 12 years. With his steady style he gained 45 points from 15 straight wins. At the larger end of the categories, Andrew Ord had 46 points in the All weights section. He began the year as a double champion, but at Carlisle, David Barnes wrestled away the 15st title with two startling hanks. As All Weights champion he was no Rab MacNamara with unassailable weight and power. But, if Ord lost a fall, he usually won the other two, and that is exactly what happened when he retained the All Weights Championship at Langholm Show.

The most comprehensive winner was Connie Hodgson of Dent. She scored 58 points and won nineteen times, including a double win at Grasmere which brought her the Guinness Trophy for the best performance at that prestigious event. I wonder if she ever wakes up in the middle of the night wondering how it was that she was only third at Whitfield.

## November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012

**"IT WAS A TOP EVENT AND THE STANDARD OF THE ENGLISH WRESTLERS WAS EXCELLENT" (GORDON MACKIE)**

### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

**The Academy Shield - will be held on Saturday, 24th November 2012, at Dr Thomlinson's Middle School, Silverton Lane, Rothbury, NE65 7RJ.**

**Junior events and Weigh-in from 6.30pm; Main event begins 7.30pm**

Our so-called "Summer Season" of wrestling may have lost ten events to the rain and mud, but it was even worse for the Scots who lost a bigger proportion of venues. We managed to shunt earlier cancellations onto later events, so for example, the 14st Championship allocated to the cancelled Skelton Show was successfully held at the Westmorland Show; but that was not possible for the Scots. Instead five **"Senior Championships Abandoned Due to Adverse Weather During the Highland Games Season"**, as it said in the programme, were staged indoors at the Possilpoint Community Centre in Glasgow, alongside the Indoor Scottish Junior Championships.

The English wrestlers were there in force and gave a good account of themselves, winning three of the senior championships and all four of the Under 21 Junior Championships. Gordon Mackie, the Scottish organiser commented that **"it was a top event and the standard of the English wrestlers was excellent"**.



Three of our young wrestlers who are Senior champions south of the border added to their honours: Ben Brocklebank, the 11st champion, came first in the Under 21/12½st class, gaining a good hold in the age-old, three generations, Brocklebank style and then rushing the opposition to the ground off the right hip. James Hayhurst, the 13st Champion, also won at Under 21 when he took

the All Weights, felling Ryan Dolan in the final, but he went one better in felling the same wrestler in the final of the British 13½st Championship.

Best of all, though, was Jack Brown our 10½st Champion, who won both the Scottish 11½st and the British 12½ Championships felling a Dundee wrestler, George Reid, who is well known in wrestling circles South of the Border. Jack Brown's hipes and hanks made the difference. Sam Wilson of Kendal Academy had a grand time, too, winning Junior titles at 8½st and 10½st

One notable win for the Scots was in the Scottish Open Championships when Frazer Hirsch of Dundee, who competes with flair and



success at several of our main events, felled fellow Scot Zen Gray of Hamilton to gain the title which his twin Brother John, now in Australia, held last year.

More parochially, on the mats at Carlisle Wrestling Club, the Points Nights, Junior and Senior produced some excellent wrestling ahead of the imminent Academy Shield team competition. In the Juniors, a Northumbrian newcomer, Alfie Storey was awarded the best performance trophy, on his first visit to the Club.

In the Seniors, increased numbers made a long night of intense and skilful wrestling in the round-robin system. No fewer than five wrestlers joined the lighter wrestlers for the final competition and John Wharton came out on top in a wrestle-off with Richard Fox.

All eyes are on Rothbury this week-end when they host the premier indoor event of the year, the Academy Shield, when all the wrestling academies put out teams against each other.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS				
Event	First	Second	Third	
11½ Stones	J Brown	G Reid	L McDowall	
All Weights	F Hirsch	Z Gray	A Thompson	
BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS				
Event	First	Second	Third	
12½ Stones	J Brown	G Reid	B Brocklebank	
13½ Stones	J Hayhurst	R Dolan	W Atkinson	
ANNUAL SCOTTISH OPEN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS				
Event	First	Second	Third	
Under 21 Years OPEN	J Hayhurst	R Dolan	J Brown	
Under 21 Years / 12½ Stones	B Brocklebank	G Neilson	J Brown	
Under 21 Years / 10½ Stones	S Wilson	T Gibson	C MacAuley	
Under 21 Years / 8½ Stones	S, Wilson	D Queen	J Orr	
CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB JUNIOR POINTS				
Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
6 Stones	A Storey	J Wales	C Wharton	H Alecock
7 Stones	A Storey	A Marston	M Wharton	H Alecock

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
8½ Stones	T Wales	A Storey	A Marston	H Wharton
10 Stones	K Miller	T Wales	T Gibson	M Wharton
Girls 7½ Stones	A Marston			
Girls OPEN	A Marston	H Wharton	G Coulthard	
Under 12 Years	M Wharton	G Coulthard	M Hodgson;	H Wharton
Under 15 Years	T Gibson	A Marston	A Storey	H Wharton
Under 18 Years	J Brown	T Gibson	K Miller	T Wales
Best Performance	Alfie Storey			

#### CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB SENIOR POINTS

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Lightweights	J Harrington	A Carlile	J Brown	D Miller
Middleweights	J Brown	A Carlile	J Harrington	D Miller
All Weights	J Wharton	R Fox	J Harrington	J Brown

## November 29<sup>th</sup> 2012

#### THE ACADEMY SHIELD

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

The Academy Shield Match at Rothbury brought together four wrestling academies to do battle for the trophy which was originally the coveted prize for the winner of the CWWA Academy League in the years immediately after the Second World War. That enormous enthusiasm fizzled out in less than 15 years and the silver shield went missing, or rather Billy Edgar, the Association Hon Secretary, kept it in his attic. In the quieter but longer sustained rebuilding of the academies in the seventies, the shield reappeared and was the prize for a very different form of competition.

Instead of it being a clash of the best men in the various academies at three weights, the new competition spread the action throughout the total membership of the club with tiny wrestlers under 6 stones being as valuable to the team as the adult champions. A full team numbered 13 wrestlers in categories from 6st to 15st and All Weights, and with two sections for females. Any gap in the team meant lost points in the round-robin system, and this had its effect this year.



Carlisle Wrestling Club came out clear winners in the end, but their success was in doubt for much of the action. After nine categories had been wrestled the margin was only two points between them and Milnthorpe. Unable to field a female wrestler, and someone at 15 stones, Milnthorpe's hopes faded, as Carlisle kept picking up good points.

For Carlisle Alfie Storey (6st), David Miller (11st), Jack Brown (12st), and John Harrington (14st) took all three falls in their categories. For Milnthorpe, James Sweetnam (7st), Josh Threlfall (8st) Jake Winter (10st), Stuart Mason (13st) and Joe Threlfall (AW) achieved the same feat; and for Rothbury, Beth Lamont in the females and Jack Hale at 15st were unbeaten. The trophy for the best performance awarded by the four main academy coaches went to Stuart Mason of Milnthorpe.

On the following day the Lakeland Sports Awards of the Lakeland Sports Promoters Association were presented at a luncheon at Heaves Hotel, Levens, and many of the protagonists from the previous night's Academy Shield were in attendance. The main award, the Lakeland Sports Personality of the year, was judged to be too close to call, and two wrestlers, John Harrington and Graham Brocklebank, shared the honour. The Junior Trophy went to another Brocklebank, Ben, who had won seven events and been placed many times in the LSPA events. Other nominees for these prestigious awards were Harold Wilson (Under 12), Archie Singer (Under 15) and Jack Brown (Under 18). Connie Hodgson picked up yet another nomination for her pre-eminence in the female wrestling.

An intriguing indoor event is scheduled to take place at Tullie House Museum on Friday, 7th December. To mark the opening of an exhibition of wrestling photographs by David Ellison, the museum is laying down the wrestling mats and hosting a wrestling event which will involve wrestling demonstrations and competitions. The exhibition is called **'Tek Hod, the Faces and Fields of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling'**, and will run until 10th March 2013.

As a result of this event the planned slide-show of the 2012 wrestling season at Currock House has been put back one week to Sunday December 16th.

ACADEMY SHIELD 2012			
First	Second equal	Third	Fourth
Carlisle 26 points	Milnthorpe and Rothbury 20pts	N/A	Kendal 12pts

OPEN COMPETITIONS			
Event	First	Second	Third
Under 8 Years	W Aycliffe	R Hodgson	M Bates
Under 10 Years	T Davidson	G Singer	T Hodgson
Under 12 Years	H Bertram	T Hayhurst	M Wharton
12½ Stones	B Brocklebank	J Wragg	K Miller
All Weights	J Hale	J Harrington	J Ewart

## December 6<sup>th</sup> 2012

### THE 2012/13 DIARY BEGINS TO FILL UP

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Friday, Dec. 7th** - 6.30 to 8.30pm "Tek Hod" at Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, including competitions at U13 / U16 / 6st / 9st / 11½st / 13½st / AW.

**Sunday, Dec. 16th** - 7.30pm at Currock House, Carlisle Wrestling Club Slideshow of the 2012 Wrestling Season

Winter for Cumberland and Westmorland wrestlers used to mean virtual hibernation. As a young lad in Northumberland in 1960 I was in the wrong place at the wrong time for much wrestling action in the Winter months. Except for an occasional match with the wrestlers from the academies at Rochester and Thropton, a weekly trip from my Alnwick home to the Wooler Academy was all the wrestling excitement to be had from October till June.

These days the Winter calendar is much fuller. As well as the club internal points competitions, we have had two presentation meals. This evening the wrestlers are gathering for a celebratory night of action at Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, to launch David Ellison's photographic exhibition "Tek Hod: The Faces and Fields of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling".

On Sunday 16th December the scattergun school of photography (Linda Scott, Julian Richardson, Jill Robson and me) hold our annual slideshow at Currock House to launch the CD of images of the 2012 Wrestling Season sold in support of the Wrestling association. In March various academies have Open Nights to end the indoor training with a flourish.

And, we have warm invitations to two international events: the Breton Backhold Championships in Quimper on February 23rd; and the FILC European Championships in Reykjavík, Iceland on April 24th to 28th.

The Breton adventure is a well-established part of the Winter Season now with regular participation by young wrestlers of all our five academies. Usually, a few cars will venture over the English Channel, but we have even had full coach loads on occasion. For the last five years the Breton Wrestling Club at Guipavas on the outskirts of Brest have been the excellent hosts for the event, but this year the franchise moves further south to the old cathedral city of Quimper. The regular contact is enhanced by Bretons who come over to our wrestling events for a week round Grasmere Sports. We know and are known by so many Bretons that my wife has a year's supply of kissing, Breton style, in one day when she attends the championship.

The organisation of the Breton trip is comparatively simple as there is a place for anyone who wishes to go. The trip to Iceland is a trickier beast. Distance is a problem for there is no quick hop over the Channel, but a long air flight with attendant costs. In Brittany, wrestlers are there as individuals, but in Iceland there will be a team selected to represent the Wrestling Association and that means the problems of selection. In Brittany the wrestling is our own back-hold style throughout; in Iceland the main championships include Gouren, the Breton style. And, in addition the wrestlers will be expected to have a go at Glima, the Icelandic style. Difficult, yes, but if I were fifty years younger, I would be up for the challenge and the adventure.

Iceland was one of the original members of the International Federation and competed in the first Championships in 1986. They hosted the Championships in 1990 and we took a big batch of wrestlers to Reykjavik to compete in two events, the Senior Championships and a junior event for the Icelandair Trophy. By 1995 the Icelanders became only loosely attached to FILC, but instead, a much closer connection grew between them and us. They regularly came to Grasmere and we took a youth team to Iceland as part of their Althing, a national gathering involving sport and culture, held every two years.



This year Ólafur Sigurðsson wrestled and was injured at Grasmere, and Peter Eythorsson flew in for the following week-end and won the 14 stones at Wolsingham. The connection is long-lasting, so it behoves us to reciprocate with a competitive team in Reykjavik in April.

## December 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

### "TEK HOD: THE FACES AND FIELDS OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND WRESTLING"

#### NEWS UPDATE

##### DATES:

**Sunday, Dec. 16th** - 7.30pm at Currock House, Carlisle Wrestling Club Slideshow of the 2012 Wrestling Season All welcome

**Wednesday, December 19th** - at Currock House Senior Points Night and final training session for 2012.

***"What struck me was the grace and sportsmanship shown by the wrestlers. Such respect and appreciation of an opponent inspired me to make these images."*** This graceful compliment to Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling indicates the beginning of many miles and places, and much film for David Ellison. His solo photographic exhibition ***"Tek Hod: the Faces and Fields of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling"*** is now open at the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, and will continue until 10th March, 2013.

In the centre of the exhibition room are glass cases with cups and belts and memorabilia from the museum collection which hint at the enduring wrestling tradition of the area. On Sunday evening at Currock House, Carlisle Wrestling Club will give a slide show of the vibrant wrestling action throughout the 2012 season. Into this world of ancient and continuing wrestling heritage came a quiet young man with a different perspective.



David Ellison's images are not concerned with the hanks and hipes and leg-up buttocks.

Instead he looks more closely at the wrestlers and their costumes in stark portraiture without the distraction of crowd and movement.

At Grasmere he set up a booth in a tent beside the ring and as the action and noise went on outside he focused in on the expression of the wrestler beside him, the musculature of the arms and the embroidery of the wrestling strip. Similarly at the

Academy Shield at Kendal, as the competition intensified, he quietly took his images of individual wrestlers in a separate small room.

The result is an outside and intense view of ourselves. Thomas Hardy once remarked that, in a photograph, you can always tell if a tradition is genuine because all the participants look miserable. Certainly all the wrestlers in David Ellison's portraits are serious and look directly at the camera with a calm assurance.

Although many of the photographs are of wrestlers wearing plain wrestling strips, most show the embroidery and images so important to the wearer. There are two main themes: exotic wild-life and farming; leopards snarling and tractors. One vest is an



autobiography crafted in thread with a gun-dog, football, a sheep and a cow to record the wearer's interests.

The other, striking element of "Tek Hod" is the image of the ambience of our wrestling. Sometimes wrestlers are involved, but the main focus is wider: a car lost down a narrow lane trying to follow the tiny signs to "The Show", "Dancing in the Rain" at a soggy Silloth Carnival and "Dog Fall" an image at Kikheaton Show lost in darkest Northumberland, with dead tree, wrestlers and a judge with a big umbrella. The individual portraits are unblinkingly serious; but the wider images are quirky and affectionately humorous.

I like the story that David Ellison tells of going to Wasdale Head Show in 2011. There was so much continuous rain that by wrestling-time at 4pm the event had washed away to nothing and did not take place. Nothing daunted, he set up his camera and recorded the wrestling ring: a single loud-speaker, ropes, and abandoned vintage car and mist. Truly, he has brought to us an alternative view of our wrestling so that we can "see ourselves as others see us". I strongly recommend a visit to Tullie House to view this remarkable exhibition.

**December 20<sup>th</sup> 2012**

## WRESTLERS 'TEK HOD' AT TULLIE HOUSE

### NEWS UPDATE

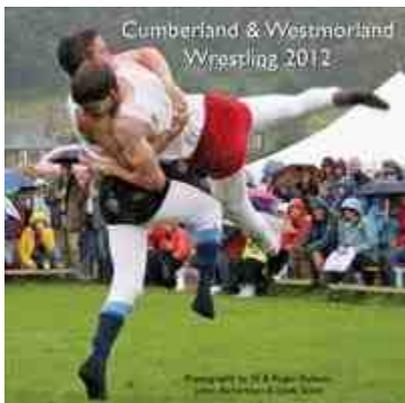
#### DATES:

A flurry of activity in the wrestling world has kept wrestlers and supporters busy before they give in to plum pudding and too many chocolates next week.

David Ellison's photographic exhibition, Tek Hod, at Tullie House Museum had two focal points: upstairs in the exhibition room and downstairs in the cafeteria transformed into a wrestling arena. The wrestlers had to find landing sites between the pillars, but the action was uninhibited and a startling contrast to the stasis of the images upstairs. With a contingent of Kendal wrestlers present with their attacking wrestling style and excellent wrestling strips, and the Carlisle wrestlers in fine fettle, there was bound to be good wrestling despite the confines of the ring.

Two young wrestlers particularly adapted to the conditions. Sam Wilson of Kendal showed the class that brought him the Under 18/10st championship earlier in the year to win the Under 16s and the 9 stones. Alfie Storey is a phenomenal young wrestler who seems to have appeared from nowhere at the end of the season. A Northumbrian, he has been travelling along with the Browns from Haydon Bridge to train at Carlisle Wrestling Club. He also won twice, at Under 13 Years and at 6 stones.

The Carlisle Club had a clean sweep of wins in the men's events, with Jack Brown felling Andrew Carlile in the final of the 11½ stones, and John Harrington taking on and besting the two Atkinson brothers from Kendal in the 13½ stones. The greatest threat to the architectural integrity of the Tullie House pillars came in the final of the All Weights when the substantial Jimmy Hall felled Jack Ewart.



The slide show held by the Carlisle club to launch sales of the CD of photographs of the 2012 season offered a completely different and more universal view of the wrestling this year. Despite the cancellation of ten events, there were photographs of wrestling at over forty affiliated events throughout the four northern counties and the Borders of Scotland.

The general sense is of intense physical action taking place in soggy and beautiful places. The season saw intense rivalry between the likes of Ben Brocklebank, Jack Brown and John Harrington, and the pictures reflect their strength, determination and skill throughout a long season.

The proceeds from the sale of the CDs go directly into the coffers of the Wrestling Association in a difficult year. Copies may be obtained from me on 016974 73559.

Carlisle Wrestling Club held its third Men's Points Night this week, and although numbers were sparse the action could not have been closer. In each category three wrestlers ended up with the same score after the round-robin. And a three way wrestle-off was needed. Jack Ewart had a long evening of waiting for action, and in his first bout Jack Brown caught him cold with a back-heel. After that slack beginning, he tightened up his game and was never beaten, until he came out on top.

In the lightweights John Harrington won after close wrestling with Jack Brown. There was a clear winner in the middleweight when Andrew Carlile was unbeaten, two falls ahead of the opposition, but needless to say, there was a three-way wrestle off for all the other places.

#### TEK HOD AT TULLIE HOUSE MUSEUM

Event	First	Second	Third
Under 13 Years	A Storey	H Wilson	M Wharton..
Under 16 Years	S Wilson	T Wales	A Storey.
Girls Open	A Marston	C Coulthard.	
6 Stones	A Storey	J Gibson;	C Wharton
9 Stone	S Wilson	A Storey	T Wales
11½ Stone	J Brown	A Carlile	D Miller
13½ Stone	J Harrington	M Atkinson	W Atkinson.
All Weights	J Hall	J Ewart	J Harrington.

#### CARLISLE WRESTLING CLUB SENIOR POINTS

Event	First	Second	Third	Fourth
11½ Stone	J Harrington	A Carlile	J Brown	P Murray.
13 Stone	A Carlile	J Brown	J Harrington	P Murray.
All Weights	J Ewart	J Harrington	J Brown	P Murray.

## December 27<sup>th</sup> 2012

#### DOWN MEMORY LANE

#### NEWS UPDATE

#### DATES:

My routine was broken this year. Skelton Show was cancelled because of mired car-parking fields, so I missed my annual reconnoitre and chat with Jeremy Godwin, a retired archivist, who still keeps me informed of wrestling references in the local

newspapers. Nevertheless, at Christmas card time an even larger dossier of newspaper cuttings than previously arrived with his card.

The increased volume came from three main sources: the Westmorland Gazette based at Kendal, the News and Star based at Workington and the Whitehaven News. The West Cumbrian papers do not cover wrestling wherever it happens, but when there is an event on their patch, such as the shows at Ennerdale, Eskdale, Wasdale Head and Buttermere, there is always a big photo-montage including the wrestling and the results. The Whitehaven News, being a weekly paper has more general articles on occasion, such as a lavishly illustrated account of a day of wrestling at Arlecdon School when Craig Naylor and Jack Ewart "spent a whole day with us carrying out separated coaching sessions with each year group".

The Whitehaven News also runs a "Down Memory Lane" column each week, looking back to previous editions 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150 years ago. Furthest back, in 1862, was an opening of a "cellar" at the Globe Hotel, Gosforth, when there was pigeon shooting for a prize of £4 and 76 youths entered their names for the wrestling. In 1887 at Parton a silver cup was put up for a wrestling competition each Saturday where "the cup is to be won three times before it becomes the property of the winner". So far, there had been five different winners so the sponsor was getting his money's worth. The wrestlers did, however, divide the entrance money each night.

The increased coverage of wrestling in the Westmorland Gazette is mainly down to the unacknowledged efforts of CWWA Governing Board Member, Chris Bland, who supplies information about the local wrestling events and the Kendal Academy. Staff photographers also cover the local shows. And there is the occasional set piece historical article in the Nostalgia section.

Similarly the Keswick Reminder and the Hexham Courant have occasional reports of wrestling, but only on their patch. Jack Brown of Haydon Bridge has been one of the star wrestlers this year with championships and plaudits galore in all areas, but remains unrecognised by his local paper.

As well as a review of the year, through cuttings, Jeremy Godwin also does an annual search through the Penrith Herald of a century ago. For the first five months of the year there is no mention of wrestling, so the academies which featured previously must have been moribund. Then there are the usual reports of the big events such as Ullswater Sports, and smaller ones like Troutbeck Sports, and the death and funeral of a famous wrestler like Thomas William Lowther of Plumpton, but what is interesting is the way that wrestlers are mentioned in other walks of life. Wrestling is part of their definition. So, in October 1912, "*The well-known wrestler, Mr George W Armstrong, Bewcastle, 23, active in the C&W Wrestling championships since 1907 sails for Australia*", there to join his brothers Jacob and Walter.

A court case of the time gives an insight into the prize-money of the time. A case for compensation for an accidental shooting laid out the income of the plaintiff. He received just over a pound a week as gardener and factotum for Mrs Brown, whose son had shot him instead of a rook; he also earned half that sum as a rural postman, and for wrestling he could expect £30 per annum. Now, with a piece shot out of his leg, he sued for compensation, but "*lost on a technicality of law*".

Another unfortunate wrestler was fined £1 and costs for riding on a train without a ticket on his way to Warcop Sports. He claimed, "It was too late to get one. It was stopped for me at the signal box"

Another court case featured two Penrith labourers arrested for fighting in the street. Their defence was that they were only practising the traditional arts of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, but as one already had a face-cut, the magistrate bound them over for £10.

Jeremy Godwin's package of cuttings is an annual reminder to me of the deeply entrenched traditions of wrestling in our county a hundred years ago, and now.

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